

# **Forest Legacy Administrative Funds Grant Narrative State of Connecticut Fiscal Year 200**

## **Description:**

Connecticut will use a portion of the grant funds to administer the Federal Forest Legacy Program under the State Grant Option. The funds will be used to provide a portion of the salary and fringe benefits for employee(s) involved in the day-to-day administration of the program, including

1. Promotion of the Program with private landowners, non-profit organizations, and local governments.
2. Compilation of Forest Legacy applications and prioritization of those applications with the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC) input.
3. Acquisition activities including negotiations, obtaining appraisals, surveys, and title insurance.
4. Coordination of the acquisition process within State government.
5. Participation in technical training courses or seminars related to forest land protection and participate in Forest Legacy meetings.

## **Federal Role:**

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) was authorized under the 1990 Farm Bill (PL 101-624) to conserve and protect important forest areas threatened by conversion to non-forest uses. The Forest Service collaborating with states to administer the program help to implement the Northeastern Area Strategic Plan for 2004 - 2008 which calls for maintaining forest land area and reducing the rate of forest fragmentation (Strategic Objective 1A). Through the Forest Legacy Program, the Federal government helps State and local governments look beyond their political boundaries to identify important forests. Further, the program offers a means to protect these forests as well.

## **Accomplishment**

Accomplishment will be successful administration of the State's Forest Legacy Program which includes:

1. the accepting and prioritizing of Forest Legacy applications, and

2. the coordination of specific land or interest in land acquisition tasks.

**Methodology and Timetable for fiscal year 200      Program administration**

**Public Information:**

List any activities planned for public awareness of the Forest Legacy Program

**Project development and acquisition administration:**

- Connecticut will continue to work with the Stewardship Committee to promote and review applications for projects for protection under Forest Legacy.
- Coordinate the Program within the State acquisition organization. Month/Year
- Call for and prioritize project nominations/applications – Month/Year
- SFSCC approval of nominations/applications - Month/Year
- Conduct acquisition process for in-progress projects (ongoing)
- Negotiations/easement drafting, ensuring landowner is notified in writing that eminent domain will not be used if amicable negotiations do not result in an agreed upon price (ongoing)
- Appraisal: Assure any appraiser or review appraiser working on Forest Legacy projects meet the qualifications outlined in the Forest Legacy Implementation Guidelines June 30, 2003, Appendix H. Require that the appraisal for Forest Legacy projects conform to the Uniform Appraisal Standards for land acquisition (Interagency Land Acquisition Conference, 2000). Obtain a Qualified Review Appraisers Report that attests to Federal Acquisition Appraisal Standard Conformance. (ongoing)
- Assure title is free and unencumbered or that title insurance is secured in the name of Connecticut. Any encumbrance to the title must be deemed by Connecticut as not affecting the purpose for which the lands or interests in land is being acquired (ongoing)

**Detailed Budget information:**

	Federal Funds	Nonfederal Funds
Personnel (list position and portion of annual salary that is allocated to FLP)		

Fringe benefits		
Travel (estimated for FLP national meeting)		
Contracts (itemize for appraisal, title search, survey)		
Total Estimated Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00