

Forest Legacy Administrative Funds Grant Narrative

Description:

The <STATE> 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. The promotion of the Program with private landowners, non-profit organizations, and local governments.
2. The 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.

The STATE will use the remaining portion of the grant funds to amend the Assessment of Need. The funds will be used to contract the public involvement and analysis required to propose a new section of the State as a Forest Legacy Area.

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. Collaborating with states to administer the program helps implement the Northeastern Area Strategic Plan for 2000 - 2004, which calls for maintaining a viable forest land base to ensure the production of economic, environmental and social benefits over the long term (Strategic Priority 4). Activities conducted by the state will be to begin the public notification, application, and acquisition process to protect key parcels within forests identified as having important public values. Thus, we are ensuring long-term sustainable forests.

Accomplishments/Targets:

[Summarize last year's accomplishments in program administration (only). List target accomplishments for this grant. Also, list when Assessment of Need was completed and when you expect Amendment to be completed.]

Methodology/Timetable:

[Choose any that apply.]

Activity

When to be completed

Program administration:

*Public notification of application period

*Prioritization of applications

*SFSCC approval of applications

*Conduct acquisition process for:

[Specify number or specific parcels.]

- 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

-Appraisal: assuring any appraisal conforms to the Uniform Appraisal Standards for land acquisition (Interagency Land Acquisition Conference, 1992)

-Obtain a Qualified Review Appraisers Report that attests to Federal Acquisition Appraisal Standard Conformance and lists Appraisers Qualifications.

-Assure title is free and unencumbered or that title insurance is secured in the name of the State. Any encumbrance to the title must be deemed by the State as not affecting the purpose for which the lands or interests in land is being acquired.

Assessment of Need Amendment:

*Public Involvement Plan

*Compilation of pertinent data

*Map development

*Public Involvement

*Finalize document with Forest Service