

Forest Legacy Administrative Funds Grant Narrative

State of <State>

Fiscal Year 200_

Description:

<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. 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. 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). 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 2000 Program administration

Public Information:

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

Project development and acquisition administration:

- <State> 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. ...
- Call for and prioritize project nominations/applications – December 2001
- SFSCC approval of nominations/applications - January 2002
- 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: assuring 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 (ongoing)
- Assure title is free and unencumbered or that title insurance is secured in the name of New Jersey. Any encumbrance to the title must be deemed by New Jersey as not affecting the purpose for which the lands or interests in land is being acquired (ongoing)

Detailed Budget information:

- Personnel (list position and portion of annual salary that is allocated to FLP)
- plus, fringe benefits
- Travel (estimated for FLP national meeting)
- Contracts (itemize for appraisal, title search, survey)

(Separate into Federal and nonfederal funds)