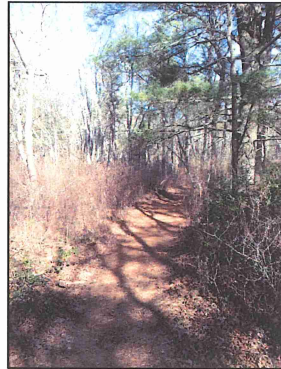


*The Forest Legacy program protects “working forests”: those that protect water quality, provide habitat, forest products, opportunities for recreation and other public benefits.*

The Forest Legacy Program was established in the 1990 Farm Bill to protect environmentally important forest areas that are threatened by conversion to non-forest.

To date, Rhode Island has used the Forest Legacy program to protect 22 parcels, totaling 3,583 acres of land, from development.



## RIDEM

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## Forest Legacy Program

*Today's Forests, Tomorrow's Legacy*



Sponsored by Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and USDA Forest Service.



Programs and activities are available to all persons without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, sexual orientation, or national origin.



# Forest Legacy

## What kind of property is eligible?

- Land must be within the designated Forest Legacy Area. A map of the area may be accessed at the web address below.
- Parcels must be larger than 25 acres.
- Compatible non-forest land (pasture, cropland, wetlands) may comprise a maximum of 25% of the property.
- Priority will be given to forest land that exhibits exceptional resource values, that has been shown to be threatened with conversion to non-forest use, and that may be available at below fair market value.

## What qualities make a property attractive for conservation?

- High quality forest resource
- Excellent habitat for fish and wildlife
- Helps protect water sources, especially drinking water
- Resources of cultural, historic or scenic significance on the property
- Currently being actively managed under a forest management plan
- Located near other protected land in the state

## What conditions will the property be subject to?

- Restrictions in the form of a *conservation easement* will be placed on the deed reflecting the interests sold.
- Traditional forest uses like timber production, hunting, fishing, hiking and gathering mushrooms are allowed and encouraged, but the property cannot be converted to non-forest uses (i.e. housing subdivision, agriculture, golf course).
- Interests are acquired in perpetuity and are binding upon subsequent property owners.
- Land in the Forest Legacy Program must be actively managed according to a Forest Stewardship Plan. The Plan documents current conditions and describes actions to be taken to protect resource values on the property while enhancing it to achieve landowner objectives. The property owner is responsible for the cost to develop or update the management plan, which must be done every ten years.

## What is the application process?

- All eligible applications are evaluated by the state's Forest Legacy Committee.
- Applications are ranked and those that best meet the resource protection goals of the State Forest Resource Plan are prioritized for funding.
- The State submits priority projects to the U.S. Forest Service and they compete for funding with projects submitted by other States.
- Applications that are not funded can be amended and resubmitted at a later date.



More information, including the application form, maps of the Legacy Area and the state's Assessment of Need are available on the DEM website:  
<http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/bnatres/forest/flpinfo.htm>