



FOREST LEGACY

Keeping important forests for future generations

April 30, 1999

No. 10

President Proposes Increase for Forest Legacy

Lands Legacy Initiative

In a January 11, 1999, proposal President Clinton called for a \$1 billion Lands Legacy Initiative. This would be the largest 1-year investment ever for the protection of America's land resource. The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is included in the Initiative with a funding level of \$50 million—a sevenfold increase over last year's FLP budget. Clinton said, "Our population is growing, our cities are growing, our commitment to conservation must grow as well." The National Association of State Foresters supports the President's figure for Forest Legacy.

Concentrating on a supplemental spending bill, Congress has yet to act on the appropriations for fiscal year 2000. The House, which originates appropriations bills, normally issues one at the end of April. The Senate produces their version later in the year.

Public Witness Day

Five minutes of fame is allotted to anyone who signs up for the House of Representatives' Public Witness Day. Between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on April 13, 1999, 55 people had 5 minutes each to testify in front of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee. The Honorable Ralph Regula and other members of the subcommittee took turns listening to the lineup of non-government people who testified in support of specific programs, including Forest Service programs.

On a day when numbers count, about a dozen people mentioned the

Forest Legacy Program. This was enough to raise the interest of at least one member about the Forest Legacy Program, one person reported.

Nick Williams of the Maryland Environmental Trust presented testimony in support of the President's proposal of \$50 million for Forest Legacy. He observed, "Some of the members showed an interest in conservation easements, which belied their lack of knowledge about them. In general, members were ill-disposed towards land acquisition because of the subsequent need to pay for management, but I heard no comments against Legacy."

Public Witness Day is a tradition with the House. The Senate does not hold Public Witness Days, but accepts written testimony.



Dan Gilmore

Gilmore Leaves Gap at Land Trust Alliance

Washington, DC—

Dan Gilmore of the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), a national nonprofit organization that promotes voluntary conservation of private lands, has become known in Forest Legacy circles. Two years ago, Dan began work on policy issues at

LTA. He took on the issue of Forest Legacy and the program hasn't been the same since. Land trusts across the nation know of the Forest Legacy Program and its value as a land protection tool.

Dan began work at the LTA 5 years ago. His passion for land protection led him to the position of policy associate. Gilmore explains his job at LTA, "I have been trying to get government to provide tax incentives or more money for land conservation." He did this by running a grassroots advocacy network. Gilmore's work has given him a taste for hands-on land conservation, but he feels it's time to move on. "My tenure in DC has provided me with the opportunity to do exciting work and interact with lots of dedicated people. After 5 years of helping land trusts protect private land, I'm going to try my own hand at it."

Dan accepted the assistant director position with the Wood River Land Trust in Ketchum, Idaho, founded in 1994 (208-788-3947). The Land Trust Alliance currently has an opening for a policy associate (www.lta.org).

Land Protected to Date

State	Acres	Value	Federal Payment
CT	225	\$ 290,000	\$ 290,000
MA	1,185	6,179,000	3,362,000
ME	11,130	2,793,000	2,793,000
NH	8,715	1,810,000	1,804,000
NJ	1,345	4,712,000	612,000
NY	638	337,000	337,000
RI	151	600,000	600,000
VT	43,797	6,800,000	5,336,000
WA	2,272	11,233,000	6,203,000
Total :	69,458	\$34,754,000	\$21,337,000

New Jersey and Maryland Race to Save What Forestland Is Left

Annapolis, MD/Trenton, NJ—

By luck of the draw, two States losing a great deal of forestland had a chance to showcase their Forest Legacy Programs recently. Program reviews are conducted periodically so that the Forest Service and the State can identify what is going well and discover if anything can be improved. Of the States using the state grant option, New Jersey and Maryland were pulled out of a hat as the first States to be reviewed. When it comes to reasons for choosing parcels to be protected, both States weigh heavily on the threatened-by-conversion reason.

Maryland, a State with a viable timber industry, is focusing on conservation easements to keep land in private ownership. They establish a relationship with the landowner from the start. Don VanHassent of the Maryland Forest Service explained their application process: "Letters are sent out to all forest landowners in a Legacy Area. Education sessions are sponsored by local land trusts, with me available to explain the application program." Maryland is calling for

applications now to have tracts ready by September 1 for fiscal year 2000 funding.

New Jersey's largest tract of forestland is typically in the hands of developers. Dennis Davidson of New Jersey's land acquisition agency—Green Acres—describes their strategy: "We try to convince the developers to sell to us. Tracts of land are so expensive, we look to a number of sources of funds to make up the purchase price. This involves matching programs to tracts. Eventually, we will determine how to manage the property. This can include some form of government ownership, which is acceptable to this State, or we can look at finding a conservation buyer and hold a conservation easement."

Southern States Forest Legacy Update

*By Elizabeth Crane
Atlanta, GA*

Nashville, TN—

The Tennessee Forest Stewardship Committee recently reviewed all potential Forest Legacy Areas nominated during the public participation phase of their Forest Legacy Assessment of Need. The Tennessee Conservation League

collected data and the Conservation Fund conducted the public meetings. Chris Berryman, a graduate intern, compiled existing data on land use patterns, private forest ownerships, rare and endangered species, and public lands.

Wetlands, river corridors, greenways, and areas experiencing urban expansion were nominated.

Population growth as well as forest fragmentation and parcelization of forestland were identified as the principal threats to private forestland in Tennessee. Tennessee hopes to complete an Assessment of Need by this summer.

Columbia, SC—

"Smiling Faces, Beautiful Places," the state motto of South Carolina, was reflected in a series of nine public meetings held throughout the State about Forest Legacy. Several hundred people attended these meetings, which were facilitated by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

According to Emily Cope of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, comments were overwhelmingly positive. A Pickens County landowner wrote, "Conversion of South Carolina wildlands to other uses is proceeding at a breakneck pace, and most of the new land uses are irreversible."

South Carolina has set a goal to complete their draft Assessment of Need (AON) by May 1999. In an innovative move, the draft AON will be on-line May 10, 1999, at the following website: <http://www.dnr.state.sc.us>

Raleigh, NC—

Following an introductory meeting on February 19, 1999, with over 30 potential partners, forest industry, land trusts, and forest landowners, North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt designated the North Carolina Division of Forest Resources the lead agency for the development of a Forest Legacy Program.

Water quality protection strategies will be incorporated into the North Carolina Assessment of Need. Public meetings are scheduled for this summer and the draft AON will be placed on-line for review and comment.

"The situation and time are right for North Carolina to protect forest lands from conversion to nonforest uses. Land use changes in the past from forestry to agriculture are reversible; changes to urban uses facing us in the future are not reversible," says State Forester Stan Adams.



Terry Hoffman, U. S. Forest Service (USFS); Don VanHassent, MD Forest Service; Roger Monthey, USFS; Liz Zucker, Eastern Shore Land Conservancy; and John Hazel, USFS on Maryland Program Review.

First Tree Farmer Is Rhode Island's Second Tract

Exeter, RI—

On February 15, 1999, Dorothy and Peter Brownell were paid \$155,000 with funds from the Forest Legacy Program to ensure their 76-acre white pine forest will never be developed. The owners will retain title to the property and will continue to manage the timber through a forest management plan. The Brownells are no strangers to forest management, having been the first Rhode Island "Tree Farmer of the Year" and managing the tract for 20 years.

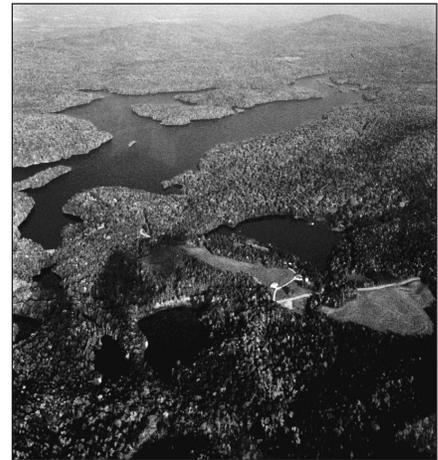
The Brownell tract joins a growing number of parcels protecting the quality of water supply aquifers.

Vermont Tract Saved

Hyde Park and Eden, VT—

Land around the Green River Reservoir in Vermont has been purchased with funds from the Forest Legacy Program. The State of Vermont closed the deal March 30, 1999, and will own outright the 5,760

acres. The source of funds are as follows: \$1,385,000 from two Forest Legacy grants, \$750,000 from the State of Vermont Heritage and Conservation funds, and an interim loan of \$365,000 from The Nature Conservancy, for a total purchase price of \$2,500,000. This tract has the longest length of undeveloped shoreline (approximately 19 miles) in Vermont. It is Vermont's largest body of water dedicated solely to non-motorized recreation and it is open to the public.



Green River Tract, Vermont

Thoughts from the National Program Manager

*By Ted Beauvais
Washington, DC*

The past 4 months have been productive for the Forest Legacy Program. The President's budget for fiscal year 2000 proposes \$50 million in Forest Legacy as part of the Lands Legacy Initiative. How Congress will respond to this proposal is yet to be seen. Some observers predict it will be late summer before we see a final appropriations bill. In the meantime, 12 projects are underway with \$6.732 million of fiscal year 1999 Forest Legacy funds.

Some new States have decided to join the Forest Legacy Program. By this time next year, we could have four to eight new States. The States most likely to join are Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, Montana, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

I recently participated in a review of the Forest Legacy Program in New Jersey led by the Forest Service's Northeastern Area. It was a great opportunity to learn more about New Jersey's Program. I commend them for a great job and their success in highly leveraging the Forest Legacy funds. We look forward to continued success in New Jersey, a State that has been dealing with growth and development issues for several decades.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Sustainable Development and Small Farms Office recently published a brochure addressing the sustainable development efforts within USDA. The Forest Legacy Program is prominently featured with one of three color photos, thanks to Terry Blunt of Massachusetts, as well as a program description. If you want copies of the brochure, please call (202)720-5955 and request Program Aid 1656, Creating Opportunities—Preserving Choices. To learn more about sustainable development, visit www.usda.gov.

Final preparations are underway for the Keep America Growing: Balancing Working Lands and Development Conference in Philadelphia June 6-9, 1999. Registrations are coming in at a rapid pace. We hope to have 500-750 participants in this first of its kind effort to assemble groups who will work to protect and conserve working land (farm, ranch, and forest) while sustaining growth and development. Regional workshops on Tuesday afternoon will offer a forum to focus the issues and establish connections among intra-regional participants. You may make your reservations by visiting the website at www.farmland.org/kag.html. I hope to see you there.

Upcoming Conferences

Land Trust Alliance

New York Regional Conference

Lake Placid, NY; May 14-15, 1999
Contact: Tony Pendas (518)587-0774

Southwest Regional Conference

Santa Fe, NM; May 20-22, 1999
Contact: Chris Herrman (970)245-5811

Keep America Growing

Philadelphia, PA; June 6-9, 1999
Contact: Ted Beauvais (202)205-1190

Eastern Lands Resource Council

Fall meeting to be determined.
Find out what ELRC is by contacting
Jim Lawler: j.lawler@dnr.state.mn.us

Nonprofit Groups Weigh in on Land Protection

By Deirdre Raimo
Durham, NH

Recently, land conservancy groups from northern New Jersey met to talk about what the perfect land protection program would be. Having gained an understanding of the land protection issue in New England, I was turned around by some of the ideas that came out of this discussion.

Who should own protected lands or interests in lands?

In New England, citizens are suspicious of Federal ownership. A friend from Maine told me a while ago her feeling about a national forest in the State, "We don't want the rest of the country telling us how to manage our forest." Her perspective was that Maine had been managing their forests for hundreds of years and, in general, Mainers were comfortable with timber industry. Private ownership is a general preference in New England. Yet, the people from New Jersey wanted Federal ownership. They felt the government wasn't doing enough in their densely populated State. For example, a 146-acre parcel purchased outright with Forest Legacy funds, is referred to as the "New Jersey National Forest" in some local circles.

Should land protection be accomplished through conservation easements or outright purchase?

A discussion on whether to use conservation easements or outright purchase of land took a different turn than expected. Across the country, people generally prefer conservation easements because they allow land to remain privately owned and managed. However, a New Jersey landowner who had been contemplating selling a conservation easement on his family property for years, recently thought it might be better to sell the land outright. He reasoned there is not much industry in the State and the public seemed to be using his open land as a dump. The discussion participants also preferred outright purchase because New Jersey landowners are not inclined to allow access on their property. One of the purposes for keeping forestland open is to offer access for recreation opportunities.

What is the Federal role in land protection?

Among many reasons, one person described the need for federal involvement. A community typically views land on a small scale; a large forest area covers many political lines and represents a variety of interests. A larger government organization can help identify and overcome those boundaries. Helping to identify large important areas of forestland is a critical aspect of the Federal role.

How should the Federal government participate in land protection?

The cost of land protection has become so expensive that the Federal government could be, at best, a partner. Land protection in the most threatened parts of the country has become a fund-raising exercise. When the Federal government contributes funds for a tract of land, other funding sources recognize its importance and are more likely to come forward.

My discussion with some of New Jersey's land conservancy community disproved the idea that people are the same everywhere. Pressures and influences cause regions of the country to be distinct. The Forest Legacy Program was conceived on ideas formulated where forestland is still abundant and available as a resource, yet set up to be flexible to accommodate regional differences. The perfect land protection program for New Jersey is different than the perfect land protection program for New England.



New Jersey Program Review



Forest Legacy is a program established in the 1990 Farm Bill. State and Federal Partners work together to implement the program. Information sharing occurs many ways including this periodic update. If you would like a copy, please send information to: Forest Legacy, USDA Forest Service, 271 Mast Road, P.O. Box 640, Durham, NH 03824-0640.
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