

Appendix B

www.southdakotaforestlegacy.org Internet Site



South Dakota Forest Legacy

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Development of South Dakota's forested areas poses an increasing threat to maintaining the integrity of our State's valuable forest lands. Intact forest lands supply timber products, wildlife habitat, soil and watershed protection, aesthetics, and recreational opportunities. However, as these areas are fragmented and disappear, so do the benefits they provide. While local governments often guide development away from the most sensitive areas through traditional land use controls (such as zoning and performance standards) sometimes these measures are not sufficient to fully protect the forest component of our natural resource base.



The Forest Legacy Program (FLP), is a federally funded and state administered program which supports efforts to protect privately owned forested lands that are environmentally, economically, and socially critical. Designed to encourage the protection of privately owned and nontrust tribal forest lands, the FLP is an entirely voluntary program. To maximize the public benefits it achieves, the program focuses on the acquisition of partial interests in privately owned and nontrust tribal forest lands through conservation easements. The FLP helps States develop and carry out their forest conservation plans. It encourages and supports the acquisition of conservation easements, legally binding agreements which transfer a negotiated set of property rights from one party to another, without removing the property from private ownership. Most FLP conservation easements restrict development, require sustainable forestry practices, and protect other values.

The South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry is in the process of developing the Forest Legacy Program for South Dakota. Please visit the Program Status page for a review of current activities.

Get the Survey Results

[Request Survey](#)

Related Links

- [National Forest Legacy Program](#)
- [South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry](#)
- [Forest Legacy Program](#)
- [Western Environment and Ecology, Inc.](#)





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South Dakota Forest Legacy Program Status

The South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry was designated by Governor Mike Rounds as the lead agency for the Forest Legacy Program in South Dakota. The South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry has since contracted with Western Environment and Ecology, Inc., a Littleton, Colorado environmental consulting firm, to conduct a statewide Assessment of Need (AON) study. Western Environment and Ecology, Inc. has successfully prepared AONs for the States of Colorado, Nebraska, and Nevada.



The AON for the State of South Dakota will identify areas of the State where private and nontrust tribal forest lands are at a greater risk of conversion to non-forest uses. In addition, it will secure South Dakota's eligibility for federal matching funds through the National Forest Legacy Program. This program is federally funded and administered by the State. It provides financial support for conservation easements and other voluntary land protection activities.

The AON process will gather and evaluate a variety of geographic, environmental, and ecologic information. In addition, a critical component is



to measure the interests and concerns of stakeholders who may be involved in the future of private forest lands. Such information is being gathered through interviews and a formal survey. If you have not already done so, please click on the survey link and take a few moments to complete the survey by July 18, 2008. Your input will provide valuable information.

The AON document will be completed by September 26, 2008. The South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry program manager will then work with the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee to design and implement the South Dakota Forest Legacy Program.



South Dakota Forest Legacy



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Related Resources

We will continue to add links to this page as necessary. If you know of a link you think should be here, please let us know ([link to email](#))

- [National Forest Legacy Program](#)
- [South Dakota Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry](#)
- [Forest Legacy Program](#)
- [Western Environment and Ecology, Inc.](#)

