

Cover Sheet Rural Legacy Application

Please complete this Cover Sheet and submit it with all Attachments

Rural Legacy Area Name: _____

Name of Sponsor: _____

County or Counties Where Eligible Properties Located: _____

Name of Sponsor's Lead Contact:

Contact's Title: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____ Fax #: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Address: _____

As authorized representative of the above referenced Sponsoring organization, I hereby certify that the information in this application is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

**Rural Legacy Program Grant Application
Application for New Area Designation**

**Executive Summary – Narrative
(two page maximum limit)**

Include a two-page (**maximum**) narrative description of the proposed Rural Legacy Area (RLA) and fill in the Executive Summary forms.

- A. Describe the boundaries of the proposed RLA.
- B. Summarize the location, use and quality of properties proposed, including attributes of the resources protected--agricultural, forestry, cultural, and natural resources--as they relate to the criteria for the Program; i.e., the nature of the resources, their quality, geographic (extent) and occurrence in contiguous blocks, corridors, greenways, and boundaries, etc., and their importance and public/economic value.
- C. Summarize and explain the long-term preservation goals and objectives of the Plan, including the percent of total RLA to be permanently protected, and the estimated use of Rural Legacy funds, and other federal, State and local funds or programs. Include a schedule for expected plan accomplishments, including an estimated year when the Plan will be complete.
- D. Describe how local planning, growth management tools, land use authority, and other supporting programs will be used to prevent development of private land until it can be permanently protected and how these tools will protect the character of the RLA for properties that may not be permanently protected. With respect to 1) existing programs; 2) new programs; and 3) programs and actions under study (with an estimate of their likelihood for enactment and implementation), explain concisely how each of the following, as applicable, supports Rural Legacy objectives:
 - protective zoning,
 - PDR programs,
 - TDR programs,
 - natural resource and environmental protection measures,
 - support for rural economic activities, and
 - any other programs that contribute to meeting the Plan's objectives.
- E. Summarize any threat to the resources and character of the area. What is the Sponsor or local government in the area doing to address this threat?
- F. Describe the degree to which the set of protection and preservation mechanisms comprising the Plan, as described above, are likely to succeed in preserving multiple resources that are extensive, important, of high quality, etc., in the RLA. Explain your rationale for these expectations given current and expected development pressure.

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Executive Summary - Numbers

1. What is the total acreage of the proposed Rural Legacy Area (RLA) (including protected, unprotected land and developed land)? _____
2. What is the total acreage of unprotected land within the RLA ? _____
3. How much of the acreage in the RLA is already developed? _____
4. At what rate is land being converted from open space to development? _____
5. Is the proposed RLA designated in the county Master or Comprehensive Plan? _____
6. How much of the undeveloped land in the RLA can be developed at a density of 1 dwelling per 20 acres or less? What percentage of the total RLA does this represent?
_____ / _____ %
7. What size in acres is the largest block of land currently protected within the RLA? _____
8. What is the total acreage of protected land within the RLA? _____
9. How many acres have been protected with funds other than Rural Legacy Program (RLP) funds

10. How many acres have been protected with donations? _____
11. How is this acreage protected--the breakdown of types of protection (in acres)?
 - a. State parks and open space _____
 - b. Federal parks and open space _____
 - c. County parks and open space _____
 - d. Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation _____
 - e. County Agricultural program _____ (PDR) _____ (TDR) _____
 - f. Maryland Environmental Trust _____
 - g. Private Land Trust _____
 - h. Other protected lands _____
12. How many acres do you propose to protect with the funds requested in this RLP application?

13. How many parcels of the current request are less than 10 acres? _____

14. What is the projected cost per acre for land acquisition proposed in this application?
Easement _____
Fee Simple _____
15. What is the projected total cost per acre (land and transactional costs including administrative, indirect and compliance costs) proposed in this application? _____
16. How many acres, including the acres proposed in this application, do you plan to protect with RLP funds over the next 10 years of the program? _____
17. How much RLP funding, including the request in this application, will you require to reach your 10-year land protection goals for the RLA? _____
18. How many total acres will be protected, by all mechanisms, if the 10-year land protection goals for the RLA are achieved? _____
19. What is the long-term, total land protection goal for the RLA? _____ (acres) _____ (% of RLA)

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Criteria and General Description

(four page maximum limit)

Rural Legacy Area - General description:

1. The significance of the agricultural, forestry, and natural resources proposed for protection.
 - a. The degree to which proposed fee or easement purchases will protect the location, proximity, and size of contiguous blocks of lands, green belts or greenways, or agricultural, forestry, or natural resource corridors.
 - b. The nature, size, and importance of the land area to be protected, such as farmland, forests, wetlands, wildlife habitat and plant species, vegetative buffers, or bay or waterfront access, average width of riparian buffers located on the proposed Rural Legacy Area (RLA) properties.
 - c. The quality and public or economic value of the land, including forms of public access that will be permitted on the proposed RLA properties, i.e. hunting, educational school trips, and trail access.
2. The degree of threat to the resources and character of the area proposed for preservation, as reflected by patterns and trends of development and landscape modifications in and surrounding the proposed RLA.
3. The significance and extent of the cultural resources proposed for protection through fee estate purchases, including the importance of historic sites and significant archaeological areas.
4. The economic value of the resource-based industries or services proposed for protection through land conservation, such as agriculture, recreation, and tourism, as well as any social benefits that will result from the proposed RLA properties being preserved, i.e., support for local food supply, farm-to-schools, benefits to underserved communities, innovative partnerships, linking children to nature.

Rural Legacy Plan

1. The overall quality and completeness of the Rural Legacy Plan (Plan):
 - a. The degree to which existing planning, zoning, and growth management policies contribute to land conservation and the protection of cultural resources;
 - b. The degree to which the proposed Plan is consistent with the applicable local comprehensive plan, including protection of sensitive areas and mineral resources;
 - c. How well existing or new conservation programs are coordinated with the proposed acquisition Plan;
 - d. How well the Plan will maximize acquisition of real property interests in contiguous blocks of land within the RLA while providing for protection of isolated acquisitions important to the Plan;
 - e. Provisions for protection of resources, such as voluntarily granted or purchased easements, fee estate purchases, or gifts of lands;
 - f. Methodology for prioritizing and valuing or appraising easements;
 - g. Proposed titleholders for easement or fee estate acquisitions;

h. The quality of the proposed stewardship program for holding and monitoring of easement restrictions in perpetuity.

2. The strength and quality of partnerships created for land conservation among federal, State, and local governments and land trusts for implementing the plan, including:

a. Financial support (Executive Summary—Numbers)

b. Dedication of staff and resources

c. Commitment to and development of local land conservation policies, such as changes in zoning and use of transferable development rights.

3. The extent to which federal or other grant programs will serve as a funding match. (Executive Summary--Numbers)

4. A Sponsor's ability to carry out the proposed Plan and the goals and objectives of the Program.

Other Plan Characteristics:

Landowner participation: Explain the anticipated level of initial landowner participation in the Plan. (Proposed Acquisitions table)

Public Participation: Summarize public participation in the development of this application if not previously provided in the RLA application.

Municipal comments: Summarize comments received and responses to municipalities within a mile of the RLA.

State of Maryland
 Department of Natural Resources
 Rural Legacy Application
Funding Request

Area Name: _____

Submission Date: _____

Anticipated Costs:

	Non-Rural Legacy Funds	Rural Legacy Funds	TOTAL
Direct	\$	\$	\$
Incidental	\$	\$	\$
Administrative	\$	\$	\$
Program Compliance	\$	\$	\$
Total	\$		\$
Total Rural Legacy Funds Requested		\$	

Describe any funding, other than Rural Legacy Program funds, or other assistance which has been pledged for the acquisition and/or monitoring of real property as identified in the Executive Summary - Numbers Form of this application.

Will you request Advance Payment for any costs? Yes ____ No ____

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