

VERMONT HOUSING AND CONSERVATION BOARD

58 East State Street, Montpelier, VT 05602

(802) 828-3250

Application of Interest for Conservation of Privately Owned Working Forestland

The Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB) is pleased to continue its programming aimed at the conservation of privately-owned working forestland. VHCB will consider funding the purchase of development rights on working forests that will remain in the ownership of private individuals or private entities that are not state agencies, municipalities, or nonprofit conservation organizations, including land owned by private entities representing historically underserved populations, provided that (1) the applicant for VHCB funds is an eligible applicant, and (2) the minimum eligibility criteria below are met, and (3) the application identifies a VHCB-approved stewardship partner that has executed a stewardship MOU with VHCB, and that has agreed to co-hold a conservation easement with VHCB. Please refer to the VHCB Guidelines titled "Funding for Privately Owned Working Forestland Projects" for more information.

Please note that the Board cannot pay more than \$1,400 per acre for easement acquisition on privately owned working forestland tracts. Also, financial leverage continues to be a high priority and the Board expects that every effort will be made to obtain bargain sales, private funding, in-kind donations, non-VHCB public funding, and/or donations of easements or of land on connected or nearby parcels.

Applicant organization: _____

Contact person at applicant organization: _____

Email and phone of contact person: _____

Owner(s) of property: _____

Owner's mailing address: _____

Town(s) where property is located: _____

Minimum Eligibility Criteria (All criteria must be checked, or attach written explanation.)

- _____ The parcel is eligible for enrollment in Use Value Appraisal (UVA) in accordance with the minimum acceptable standards established by the Commissioner of Forests, Parks and Recreation.
- _____ The parcel is subject to a forest management plan that was approved by the state for enrollment in UVA, or contact VHCB staff to discuss a plan that has not yet been state approved.
- _____ The project will result in a perpetual conservation easement in a form approved by VHCB staff and co-held by VHCB and a nonprofit conservation organization or state agency that has a VHCB-approved easement stewardship program (see exception under Miscellaneous below).
- _____ The sale price of the development rights will not exceed the value as determined by an appraisal acceptable to VHCB staff.
- _____ The request to the Board will not exceed \$1,400/acre for acquisition of development rights.

General Description

Enter: _____ total contiguously owned acres, minus _____ excluded acres = _____ acres to be conserved.

Acreage is derived from: ___deed ___survey ___GIS ___tax map ___other

Percentage of land to be conserved land that is in forest cover: _____

Predominant tree species: _____

Location

Does the property abut conserved land? ___yes ___no

Is the property part of a planned assemblage of protected properties? ___yes ___no

Is the property within an identified wildlife corridor? ___yes ___no

Is the property part of a riparian area or a headwaters? ___yes ___no

Does the property offer recreational benefits or is it near recreational resources? ___yes ___no

Is the property threatened by development because of

 ___physical access, ___zoning, ___road frontage, ___special amenities?

Describe special amenities, if any: _____

Infrastructure

Will any structures be included within the easement area? ___yes ___no

If yes, please list: _____

Management

List forest management goals: _____

List forest-related businesses associated with the property: _____

Have the landowners enrolled in a landowner succession program? ___yes ___no

List participation in other management programs or associations: _____

Other Values

Will the project offer public access? ___yes ___no

If yes, describe: _____

Will the project offer financial leverage? ___yes ___no

If yes, describe what is anticipated: _____

Landowner Considerations

Are there any plans to sell or convey the forestland or parts of the forestland? ___yes ___no

If yes, please explain: _____

Will the landowner agree to site control to give time for appraisal and VHCB application? ___yes ___no

Miscellaneous

Is VHCB only being asked to fund associated and stewardship costs on a donated easement? ___yes ___no

If yes, will VHCB obtain a legal interest other than easement co-holder status? ___yes ___no

Are there other aspects of the project that are important? ___yes ___no

If yes, please describe: _____

Attachments

Attach project maps, photos, letters of support, and other items at your discretion.

List attachments: _____

To Submit Application:

Save Application as a PDF and email to bdellisola@vhcb.org

Direct questions to Bill Dell'Isola VHCB Conservation Analyst 802-828-3252