

Heritage Forest Program

Every year, vast tracts of Texas forests disappear as private acreage gets sold or subdivided. Often with new owners, the care of these distinct ecosystems and the productive management of these forestlands are not given top priority. Replanting declines and environmental concerns increase.

The Texas Heritage Forest Program is a partnership between the Texas Forest Service and the Texas A&M Foundation that enables a landowner to become a partner in ensuring the sustainability of Texas forests by establishing a prominent, living legacy of forestlands and endowing research, education and extension projects that honor people and places.



LANDOWNER PARTICIPATION

1. How can a landowner participate in the program?

The two major needs of the Texas Forest Service are for land to establish demonstration projects, and for funding endowments to assist in developing excellent programs. Each Heritage Gift is individually crafted. Depending on your goals, you can participate in a variety of ways. Some examples are:

- Share of Partnership Gift
- Gift of Property with Retained Life Estate
- Gift of Undivided Interest in Property
- Creating a Timber Trust

2. Who should apply and what are the benefits?

Owners of forestland properties who may be experiencing one of the following situations:

You would like relief from the burden of owning or managing the land

There are no other family members available to, have the means for, or interested in, taking on the responsibilities of forest land stewardship

You need or would like the possibility of more income than the forestland is currently producing

You may have impending heavy capital gain and estate taxes

You want to know that your forestland will be managed in the years ahead

You may have the desire or be in a situation where making a charitable gift would be favorable to your circumstances

Only landowners that are interested in permanently gifting their forestland or an interest in their forestland.

Priority will be given to properties that provide benefits maintained as working forest.

3. How will the gift be recognized?

Because each gift is unique, there are many options for recognition. When an endowment is funded with monies derived from the sale of gifted timber or property, the endowment may be named in whatever specific manner the donor requests as in a memorial or to commemorate a family member or other loved one. When

properties are utilized as a demonstration forest, commemorative plaques will be created and displayed in the state headquarters of the Texas Forest Service, regional office, and on site. On site plaques may be inscribed as you wish. At the donor's discretion, gifts may appear in publications or commemorative ceremonies.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

1. Will the State sell the property?

The Texas Forest Service welcomes gifts to be managed or sold, at its discretion, to establish service and educational endowments.

2. Who decides which projects will be selected?

The State Forester, Director of the Texas Forest Service.

3. When should potential gifts be submitted?

The Texas Forest Service accepts gifts to the Heritage Forest Program at any time of the year.

4. How can you learn more about the Texas Heritage Forest Program?

For further information contact Jan Davis at the Texas Forest Service, jdavis@tfs.tamu.edu.

5. Is the gift permanent?

Yes.

6. How will the gift be used?

To establish an educational endowment or a demonstration forest.

7. How will the gift be managed?

The Texas Forest Service or the Texas A&M Foundation, a private, non-profit corporation, will manage the gift. Staff members can help you tailor a gift that fulfills your long-term charitable and financial goals.

LAND MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

1. Does participation in the Heritage Forest Program have any effect on the management other landholdings I have?

No.

2. Will a gift keep my property from being taken for a road or utility project?

No. The property is still subject to eminent domain, just as it is now. It is possible that project planners may make more effort to avoid a "conservation property" but that is not guaranteed.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

Strong forests for future Texans
Expanded resources for education and research
Better techniques for sustained growth, pest control, tree improvement, and water quality
Efficient, ecologically sound harvesting for the next generation
Economic vitality for the Texas forest industry