

Land Acquisition for Forest Reserve Grant Programs
Questions & Answers
(Posted August 29, 2024)

Does a landowner's bargain sale count for the 50% match?

Yes. The budget may identify the full market value of the project under total project cost, and identify a bargain sale contribution to the LT as the source of "other anticipated funding" towards reaching that value.

If an applicant is pre-acquiring the property prior to the deadline, does the appraisal still need to be completed 60 days prior to closing?

No. If the applicant can provide a qualified appraisal **prior** to contracting (e.g. with the application) that requirement is waived. An appraisal submitted after an award has been announced, must be submitted as soon as possible, and not later than 60 days prior to closing to ensure EEA may confirm the appraisal is satisfactory, and a contract can be modified if necessary and prior to closing.

Can an applicant submit more than one application? Yes.

If after submitting the application or the award grant, the appraisal comes in higher than was anticipated, can we adjust the grant award up?

We encourage all applicants to secure an appraisal as soon as possible. Once a contract is executed, it cannot be amended to increase the grant award.

When do you anticipate contracting for grant awards?

All contracts must be executed by the end of the calendar year. Applicants should not plan to close on an acquisition before the contract has been executed by EEA.

There is a small, dilapidated hunting cabin on the property. It's currently unusable and there is no sewer/water/electricity. Would this affect our application at all? Would we be required to demo it?

The presence of a structure does not disqualify or negatively impact the proposal if you articulate plans and can demonstrate the committed funding to remove the building. The final project reimbursement would be contingent upon the demolition.

Does a trail kiosk proposed to be installed at the front of the property count as a structure?

No. The installment of signage or minor structures such as a trail head kiosk that facilitate compatible passive public recreation are acceptable.

Should the small section of property proposed to support a dirt parking lot, kiosk and a seasonal porta potty be excluded from the CR for recreational use?

The applicant should evaluate the benefits of excluding the area proposed for public access improvements, or if the area will need to be incorporated in the CR with specific terms to allow for the installation of minor improvements that are proposed. If the area is proposed for inclusion with the CR, the location and scale of these improvements is something that the CR will need to identify clearly.

Do you have an example of a budget or budget template that we could use?

A simple budget template is provided in Attachment A: Application.