

**Lewis and Clark County Open Lands Program
Level Two
Application**

Landowner and Agency Identification

Please state the name, address, and telephone number of the landowner and of the sponsoring land conservation organization.

Please submit this application by digital media accompanied by one complete paper version.

Note: When submitted to the County, this application will become a public document and all information contained in it may be viewed by any member of the public that may request to do so.

These criteria summarize the objective, quantifiable, desirable characteristics sought by the Open Lands Program as established by the Land, Water and Wildlife bond measure passed by voters in 2008. These criteria will be used by County Staff and the Citizens Advisory Committee on Open Lands (CAC) as an objective means to guide the evaluation of specific projects to determine if they meet the voter-approved goals for conservation funding. The CAC recognizes that not all these features will be present on each property.

Provide a general description of the property that includes:

- a. The size of the property – total acreage and amounts by sub-ownership categories (i.e., deeded, leased, permitted public land, etc.)
- b. Size of the area to be included in the conservation easement or land purchase – total acreage and percentage of deeded land
- c. Permitted home sites – identify any existing home sites and future home sites that will be permitted in the conservation easement.
- d. Water/Mineral Rights - identify any other rights appurtenant to the property and whether they will remain with the property
- e. Hazardous materials – confirm that no hazardous materials, as defined by the federal government, are known or believed to be present on the property both above and below ground. If the land is contaminated, the contamination has been identified and a description is included as to how the material can be removed from the property and the site reclaimed.
- f. Other Conservation Easements and Public Lands – adjacent or nearby existing or proposed conservation easements and/or public land that would enhance the purpose of this application.
- g. Commercial Activities – identify and describe any existing and/or proposed commercial activities occurring on the property.

Funding: Describe the general budget of the project and any of the following that apply.

- What funding is requested from the County and how will they be applied?
- Will the County's funds be matched through donation of land value and/or other funding sources? If so, what amounts have been approved or requested, or are pending approval?

If applicable, describe the total project costs, including transaction costs and stewardship fees.

Conserve Working Farms and Ranches: Describe the value of the property in terms of continuing or restoring the historic land use, and identify any of the following characteristics that apply.

- Does the property contain "prime, unique, statewide or locally important" agricultural soils, as defined by NRCS?
- Is the property contiguous with other working lands?
- Is this property currently a working farm or ranch?
- Is there an existing farm or ranch management plan in place?

Conserve Working Forests: Describe the value of the property in terms of protecting or improving forest uses, and identify any of the following characteristics that apply.

- Is the property located within the urban/wildland interface?
- Is the location deemed to be an area of high risk for wildfire?
- Is there a current forest management plan?
- Is the property, or a portion of it, classified as forest land/commercial timber for tax purposes?
- Is the forest being actively managed for current or future timber harvest?

Protect Habitat for Fish and Wildlife: Describe the value of the property as fish and wildlife habitat, and include any of the following that apply.

- Does the property contain significant wildlife habitat?
- Is there a diversity of habitat for wildlife or fish on the property?
- Has the property been identified as an area critical to the lifecycle of some wildlife species? (Summer or winter range, migration corridors, spawning habitat, etc.)
- Is there habitat for Threatened and Endangered, or Sensitive species of wildlife or fish?
- Are there streams or rivers with high habitat ratings from MFWP?
- Is there intact native riparian habitat?

Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Recreation: Describe the value of the property for

outdoor recreation, and identify any of the following that apply.

- Will the proposed project maintain or increase legal and physical access for the public to existing public land or waters?
- Does the proposed project include legal access for the public on the private land proposed for conservation?
- Will the project secure access for the public to an existing, long-standing recreation or access site?
- Does the site and type of access offer the possibility of recreation for people with physical limitations?
- Will the project create or maintain a trailhead or trail for use by the public?
- Does the project support an existing, adopted outdoor recreation plan or initiative?

Protect Water Resources and Water Quality: Describe the value of the property in terms of Water Resources and Water Quality, and identify any of the following that may apply.

- Does the property contain high-quality wetlands?
- Are there lakes, ponds, or springs located on the property?
- Does the property contain riparian areas with intact vegetation?
- Are there rivers/streams with perennial flows?
- Does the property contain land in the 100 year floodplain?
- Are there water rights appurtenant to the property?
- Is the property within a watershed that is the source of a public water supply system?
- Is the property in an area that has been identified by a local, state or federal government agency as particularly sensitive in terms of its geology, soils or risk to an aquifer?
- Has DEQ classified the waterway on the property as A-1 or better (per ARM 17.30.606-614)?

Preserve Open Lands, Natural Areas and Historic Value: Describe the value of the property in terms of Open Lands, Natural Areas and Historic Value, and identify any of the following that may apply.

- Does the property contain scenic features that are strongly associated with the county's identity and sense of place?
- Will the project conserve unique geologic or geographic features?
- Does the proposed project help implement an adopted community plan or neighborhood vision?
- Does the property adjoin a city, town or unincorporated community?
- Are there threatened or endangered species, or species of concern on the property?
- Is there a particularly good example of a native habitat (e.g., native grasslands, healthy stands of aspen or limber pine, riparian plant associations)?
- Are there historic, archeological or prehistoric sites located on the property including historic or prehistoric corridors and trails?

Are there any other outstanding or unique feature of the property you would like to describe?

Required Supporting Documentation: Please refer to the 'Required Attachments for Level Two Application for Projects Funded by the Open Lands Program, Lewis and Clark County, Montana' document.

I/we have prepared this application to the best of our ability and knowledge and request that Lewis and Clark County evaluate this request for funding based on the information contained herein. I/we understand the project selection process described in the Lewis and Clark Open Lands Program Guide. I/we understand that a recommendation that this project move to the Due Diligence Phase is not a guarantee of funding. If any information or circumstance changes substantially the project may be subject to reconsideration or reapplication, as described in the Program Guide.

I am authorized to sign this application as the applicant/landowner or a representative of the Sponsor.

Landowner signature Date

And/or

Sponsor representative signature Date