

ALEX PADILLA

U.S. SENATOR  for CALIFORNIA

Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act

Senators Alex Padilla (D-Calif.) and Tim Sheehy (R-Mont.)

The Forest Legacy Program (FLP) is a conservation program administered by the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with State agencies to encourage the protection of privately-owned forest lands through conservation easements or land purchases.

Protection of private forests through FLP maintains a multitude of public benefits including opportunities to hunt, fish, and camp; clean and abundant drinking water; habitats for fish and wildlife; and forest products. Since its creation in 1990, FLP has conserved over 3 million acres of forest land and expanded across the country to 53 states and territories.

What the *Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act* would do:

- Give States the option to designate accredited nonprofit land trusts to hold conservation easements purchased from the U.S. Forest Service's Forest Legacy Program. Current law requires that federal or state governments hold conservation easements purchased under the Forest Legacy Program.

Why is this bill necessary?

- Allowing States participating in the federal Forest Legacy Program the flexibility to partner with accredited nonprofit land trusts will help permanently conserve more land by working with private landowners who want to choose conservation but do not want to sell an easement on their property to the government.
- The *Forest Legacy Management Flexibility Act* would save states money and time, increasing the impact and reach of the Forest Legacy Program to ensure that the program can continue being effective and beneficial.