



# TERRA

## Forest CORE Fund (Mountain Valley Pipeline Region)

The Forest CORE (Community Opportunities for Restoration and Enhancement) Fund for the Mountain Valley Pipeline region was established under VOF's TERRA Program in June 2018 using \$15 million from a mitigation agreement between the Commonwealth of Virginia and Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC. The Fund's purpose is to mitigate forest fragmentation that results from the clearing and grubbing activities along the pipeline's 303-mile right-of-way through Virginia. Grants will be awarded to projects that mitigate for forest fragmentation by preserving, connecting and enhancing forest resources.

### Objective

To provide mitigation of forest fragmentation through:

- + Avoided deforestation.
- + Establishment of forest land.
- + Restoration/enhancement of forest land.

### Types of Projects Funded

Projects that result in avoided deforestation such as:

- + Purchase of conservation/open-space easements on properties that will include requirements for forest management and prohibition of conversion of forest land.
- + Purchase of additional limiting terms on land under conservation easement to prohibit conversion of forest land.
- + Fee-simple acquisition of forest land with prohibition of conversion of forest land.

Projects that establish new forest land such as:

- + Afforestation of un-forested lands.

Projects that restore or enhance forestland such as:

- + Timber stand improvement to create healthy native forest composition and structure.
- + Controlled burning to restore and maintain fire regimes.
- + Invasive-exotic species control.

### Funding Available

\$4 million will be made available to fund grant proposals in fiscal year 2025. There is no maximum or minimum grant award criteria. Additional grant funds will be made available in fiscal year 2026.

### Eligible Applicants

- + State and federal agencies, localities, public bodies, park authorities, planning district commissions, regional public access authorities, tribal councils, soil and water conservation districts.
- + Charitable corporations, associations, or trusts declared exempt from taxation pursuant to 26 U. S. C. A. §501(c)(3).

### Minimum Requirements

Any forest land preserved, established, or enhanced using funding from this grant program must be:

- + Protected from conversion in perpetuity.
- + Managed for the health of the forest ecosystem, which includes restrictions on timber harvesting.

### Application Information / Timeframe

Grant applications are due January 22, 2025, with awards announced in March 2025. Selected projects must be completed by October 2027.

### Grant Manual

Visit the link below for the PDF Grant Manual that contains full details about criteria, eligibility, and requirements during and after the project selection period:

<https://www.vof.org/protect/grants/terra/fcf-mvp/>

### Contact information

Questions about grants from this fund should be sent to [ewhite@vof.org](mailto:ewhite@vof.org).

