

Keystone Project (formerly Coverts) Application Form

In ecology, a **keystone species** is one whose impacts on its environment are larger and greater than would be expected from one species. Like the Coverts program before, the Keystone project educates forest owners and community leaders who have a significant impact on their communities. Keystone Cooperators can either own forestland, be involved in the care and stewardship of a property, or be an involved community leader. This application is an important step in helping us locate enthusiastic people to participate in the Keystone Project.

The Keystone Project is a competitive program. Applications will be reviewed for applicant experience, connectedness within the community, special skills, and diversity.

If you know of good candidates, please pass this application on to them. If you are interested, please complete this form as soon as possible and return to:

Keystone Project
Paul Catanzaro
Holdsworth Hall, University of Massachusetts
Amherst, MA 01003
413 545-4839 fax = 413 545-4358
cat@umext.umass.edu

The application **deadline** is: **Monday, March 3rd, 2008**. Information about Keystone and more copies of this application are available at:
<http://MassKeystone.net>

1) Name _____
(Last) (First)

2) Address:
Home _____
(R.R., Street, or PO Box)

(Town) (State) (Zip)

(Phone & best time to call)

email address (*please print clearly*)

3) Current Occupation _____

4) How long have you lived in your community? _____ Years

5) Please indicate which statements below best describe you:

- a. I own _____ acres of forestland in Massachusetts
- b. I am involved in the stewardship of _____ acres of forestland in Massachusetts, through a (circle one: Conservation Commission, land trust, other conservation effort.)
- c. _____ I am involved in my community and wish to work on forest conservation issues

6) What, if any, land management activities have you carried out in the past three years? As an example, you might list: timber stand improvement, woods road construction and maintenance, releasing apple trees, tree planting, boundary maintenance, trail construction or other recreational improvements.

7) What, if any, conservation activities have you been involved with in the past three years? As an example, you might list: worked on town open space plan, permanently protected my property, monitored land trust land, spoke with a landowner regarding forest management and/or land protection.

8) Please list **ALL** your community and organizational experiences you have participated in (include, for example, memberships, offices held in community groups, community learning experiences, volunteer activities, etc.). **Please indicate the dates involved and the activities or groups in which you are currently active.** Use an attached sheet if necessary.

Organization/Activity	Role

9) If the community or any groups have recognized your services with any special awards, would you please explain.

10) Please indicate the statement which most accurately describes the level of knowledge you feel you have about forestry and wildlife conservation.

- *please circle the appropriate letter* -

- a. I have no knowledge of forestry or natural resource management
- b. I am aware of some options available to me in managing my property for wood and wildlife.
- c. I understand some forest and wildlife management concepts and can explain them to others.
- d. I have enough skills to implement some forest and wildlife management activities on my land.
- e. I know as much about forest and wildlife management as most foresters or wildlife biologists.

11) How could you be most helpful in advocating forest conservation, wildlife management, and land protection in your community?

12) What aspects of the Keystone Project interest you the most?

Keystone participants receive room and board for three days, well over \$200 in take-home references, and benefit in many other ways from this intensive educational effort. We are asking people who are selected to participate to invest \$50 in the program to partially offset expenses. These funds could come directly from an individual, **or be generated by a local conservation organization** (e.g., Conservation Commission or land trust) sponsoring a person.

If selected to be a Keystone Cooperator, do you agree to pay tuition of \$50?

Yes ___ No ___

If you are selected to be a Keystone Cooperator, what dietary restrictions should we make the caterer aware of?

Thank you for your interest in forest and wildlife conservation.