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Form **990-PF**

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Return of Private Foundation

or Section 4947(a)(1) Trust Treated as Private Foundation

▶ Do not enter social security numbers on this form as it may be made public.
▶ Information about Form 990-PF and its instructions is at *www.irs.gov/form990pf*.

OMB No 1545-0052

2016

Open to Public Inspection

For calendar year 2016, or tax year beginning 01-01-2016 , and ending 12-31-2016

Name of foundation
The Ross Foundation

A Employer identification number
71-6060574

Number and street (or P O box number if mail is not delivered to street address) PO Box 335 | Room/suite

B Telephone number (see instructions)
(870) 246-9881

City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code
Arkadelphia, AR 71923

C If exemption application is pending, check here ▶ ☐

G Check all that apply ☐ Initial return ☐ Initial return of a former public charity ☐ Final return ☐ Amended return ☐ Address change ☐ Name change

D 1. Foreign organizations, check here ▶ ☐
2. Foreign organizations meeting the 85% test, check here and attach computation ▶ ☐

H Check type of organization ☑ Section 501(c)(3) exempt private foundation
☐ Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trust ☐ Other taxable private foundation

E If private foundation status was terminated under section 507(b)(1)(A), check here ▶ ☐

I Fair market value of all assets at end of year *(from Part II, col (c), line 16)* ▶$ 95,693,472

J Accounting method ☐ Cash ☑ Accrual
☐ Other (specify)
(Part I, column (d) must be on cash basis)

F If the foundation is in a 60-month termination under section 507(b)(1)(B), check here ▶ ☐

Part I Analysis of Revenue and Expenses

(The total of amounts in columns (b), (c), and (d) may not necessarily equal the amounts in column (a) (see instructions))

	Line	Description	(a) Revenue and expenses per books	(b) Net investment income	(c) Adjusted net income	(d) Disbursements for charitable purposes (cash basis only)
Revenue	1	Contributions, gifts, grants, etc , received (attach schedule)				
	2	Check ▶ ☑ if the foundation is **not** required to attach Sch B				
	3	Interest on savings and temporary cash investments	1,088	1,088		
	4	Dividends and interest from securities				
	5a	Gross rents	131,719	131,719		
	b	Net rental income or (loss) 131,719				
	6a	Net gain or (loss) from sale of assets not on line 10	1,700,264			
	b	Gross sales price for all assets on line 6a 2,440,794				
	7	Capital gain net income (from Part IV, line 2)		1,700,264		
	8	Net short-term capital gain				
	9	Income modifications				
	10a	Gross sales less returns and allowances				
	b	Less Cost of goods sold				
	c	Gross profit or (loss) (attach schedule)				
	11	Other income (attach schedule)	78,370	78,370		
	12	**Total.** Add lines 1 through 11	1,911,441	1,911,441		
Operating and Administrative Expenses	13	Compensation of officers, directors, trustees, etc	247,423			247,423
	14	Other employee salaries and wages	310,791			310,791
	15	Pension plans, employee benefits	130,010			133,305
	16a	Legal fees (attach schedule)	8,470			8,808
	b	Accounting fees (attach schedule)	27,463			21,722
	c	Other professional fees (attach schedule)				
	17	Interest	199,126			201,140
	18	Taxes (attach schedule) (see instructions)	140,085			135,071
	19	Depreciation (attach schedule) and depletion	28,651			
	20	Occupancy	19,648			19,564
	21	Travel, conferences, and meetings	1,051			994
	22	Printing and publications				
	23	Other expenses (attach schedule)	169,310			169,537
	24	**Total operating and administrative expenses.** Add lines 13 through 23	1,282,028	0		1,248,355
	25	Contributions, gifts, grants paid	682,175			359,391
	26	**Total expenses and disbursements.** Add lines 24 and 25	1,964,203	0		1,607,746
	27	Subtract line 26 from line 12				
	a	**Excess of revenue over expenses and disbursements**	-52,762			
	b	**Net investment income** (if negative, enter -0-)		1,911,441		
	c	**Adjusted net income**(if negative, enter -0-)				

Part II **Balance Sheets** Attached schedules and amounts in the description column should be for end-of-year amounts only (See instructions)

			Beginning of year (a) Book Value	End of year (b) Book Value	(c) Fair Market Value
Assets	1	Cash—non-interest-bearing	195,014	11,122	11,122
	2	Savings and temporary cash investments	769,528	1,033,170	1,033,170
	3	Accounts receivable ▶ 21,646 Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶	59,691	21,646	21,646
	4	Pledges receivable ▶ Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶			
	5	Grants receivable			
	6	Receivables due from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons (attach schedule) (see instructions)			
	7	Other notes and loans receivable (attach schedule) ▶ Less allowance for doubtful accounts ▶			
	8	Inventories for sale or use			
	9	Prepaid expenses and deferred charges	12,058	6,084	6,084
	10a	Investments—U S and state government obligations (attach schedule)			
	b	Investments—corporate stock (attach schedule)			
	c	Investments—corporate bonds (attach schedule)			
	11	Investments—land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶ Less accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) ▶			
	12	Investments—mortgage loans			
	13	Investments—other (attach schedule)			
	14	Land, buildings, and equipment basis ▶ 1,221,817 Less accumulated depreciation (attach schedule) ▶ 579,567	666,237	642,250	642,250
	15	Other assets (describe ▶)	93,435,675	93,979,200	93,979,200
	16	**Total assets** (to be completed by all filers—see the instructions Also, see page 1, item I)	95,138,203	95,693,472	95,693,472
Liabilities	17	Accounts payable and accrued expenses	176,670	189,263	
	18	Grants payable	78,600	401,384	
	19	Deferred revenue	67,043	19,500	
	20	Loans from officers, directors, trustees, and other disqualified persons			
	21	Mortgages and other notes payable (attach schedule)	4,800,000	4,085,000	
	22	Other liabilities (describe ▶)			
	23	**Total liabilities**(add lines 17 through 22)	5,122,313	4,695,147	
Net Assets or Fund Balances		**Foundations that follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ ☑ and complete lines 24 through 26 and lines 30 and 31.**			
	24	Unrestricted	90,015,890	90,998,325	
	25	Temporarily restricted			
	26	Permanently restricted			
		Foundations that do not follow SFAS 117, check here ▶ ☐ and complete lines 27 through 31.			
	27	Capital stock, trust principal, or current funds			
	28	Paid-in or capital surplus, or land, bldg , and equipment fund			
	29	Retained earnings, accumulated income, endowment, or other funds			
	30	**Total net assets or fund balances** (see instructions)	90,015,890	90,998,325	
	31	**Total liabilities and net assets/fund balances** (see instructions)	95,138,203	95,693,472	

Part III **Analysis of Changes in Net Assets or Fund Balances**

1	Total net assets or fund balances at beginning of year—Part II, column (a), line 30 (must agree with end-of-year figure reported on prior year's return)	1	90,015,890
2	Enter amount from Part I, line 27a	2	-52,762
3	Other increases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶	3	1,035,197
4	Add lines 1, 2, and 3	4	90,998,325
5	Decreases not included in line 2 (itemize) ▶	5	
6	Total net assets or fund balances at end of year (line 4 minus line 5)—Part II, column (b), line 30	6	90,998,325

Part IV Capital Gains and Losses for Tax on Investment Income

	(a) List and describe the kind(s) of property sold (e g , real estate, 2-story brick warehouse, or common stock, 200 shs MLC Co)	(b) How acquired P—Purchase D—Donation	(c) Date acquired (mo , day, yr)	(d) Date sold (mo , day, yr)
1 a	Timber	P	2010-01-01	2016-01-01
b				
c				
d				
e				

	(e) Gross sales price	(f) Depreciation allowed (or allowable)	(g) Cost or other basis plus expense of sale	(h) Gain or (loss) (e) plus (f) minus (g)
a	2,440,794		740,530	1,700,264
b				
c				
d				
e				

Complete only for assets showing gain in column (h) and owned by the foundation on 12/31/69				
	(i) F M V as of 12/31/69	(j) Adjusted basis as of 12/31/69	(k) Excess of col (i) over col (j), if any	(l) Gains (Col (h) gain minus col (k), but not less than -0-) **or** Losses (from col (h))
a				1,700,264
b				
c				
d				
e				

2	Capital gain net income or (net capital loss)	If gain, also enter in Part I, line 7 If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 7	2	1,700,264
3	Net short-term capital gain or (loss) as defined in sections 1222(5) and (6) If gain, also enter in Part I, line 8, column (c) (see instructions) If (loss), enter -0- in Part I, line 8		3	

Part V Qualification Under Section 4940(e) for Reduced Tax on Net Investment Income

(For optional use by domestic private foundations subject to the section 4940(a) tax on net investment income)

If section 4940(d)(2) applies, leave this part blank

Was the foundation liable for the section 4942 tax on the distributable amount of any year in the base period? ☐ Yes ☑ No

If "Yes," the foundation does not qualify under section 4940(e) Do not complete this part

1 Enter the appropriate amount in each column for each year, see instructions before making any entries

(a) Base period years Calendar year (or tax year beginning in)	(b) Adjusted qualifying distributions	(c) Net value of noncharitable-use assets	(d) Distribution ratio (col (b) divided by col (c))
2015	1,847,449	1,121,974	1 64661
2014	1,389,477	1,017,275	1 36588
2013	1,386,722	1,296,949	1 06922
2012	1,378,422	1,115,712	1 23546
2011	1,270,441	820,813	1 54778

2	**Total** of line 1, column (d)	2	6 864954
3	Average distribution ratio for the 5-year base period—divide the total on line 2 by 5, or by the number of years the foundation has been in existence if less than 5 years	3	1 372991
4	Enter the net value of noncharitable-use assets for 2016 from Part X, line 5	4	1,020,846
5	Multiply line 4 by line 3	5	1,401,612
6	Enter 1% of net investment income (1% of Part I, line 27b)	6	19,114
7	Add lines 5 and 6	7	1,420,726
8	Enter qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4	8	1,612,410

If line 8 is equal to or greater than line 7, check the box in Part VI, line 1b, and complete that part using a 1% tax rate See the Part VI instructions

Part VI **Excise Tax Based on Investment Income (Section 4940(a), 4940(b), 4940(e), or 4948—see instructions)**

1a	Exempt operating foundations described in section 4940(d)(2), check here ▶ ☐ and enter "N/A" on line 1 Date of ruling or determination letter ________ **(attach copy of letter if necessary–see instructions)**			
b	Domestic foundations that meet the section 4940(e) requirements in Part V, check here ▶ ☑ and enter 1% of Part I, line 27b		1	19,114
c	All other domestic foundations enter 2% of line 27b Exempt foreign organizations enter 4% of Part I, line 12, col (b)			
2	Tax under section 511 (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only Others enter -0-)		2	
3	Add lines 1 and 2.		3	19,114
4	Subtitle A (income) tax (domestic section 4947(a)(1) trusts and taxable foundations only Others enter -0-)		4	
5	**Tax based on investment income.** Subtract line 4 from line 3 If zero or less, enter -0-		5	19,114
6	Credits/Payments			
a	2016 estimated tax payments and 2015 overpayment credited to 2016	6a 16,100		
b	Exempt foreign organizations—tax withheld at source	6b		
c	Tax paid with application for extension of time to file (Form 8868)	6c		
d	Backup withholding erroneously withheld	6d		
7	Total credits and payments Add lines 6a through 6d.		7	16,100
8	Enter any **penalty** for underpayment of estimated tax Check here ☑ if Form 2220 is attached		8	
9	**Tax due.** If the total of lines 5 and 8 is more than line 7, enter **amount owed** ▶		9	3,014
10	**Overpayment.** If line 7 is more than the total of lines 5 and 8, enter the **amount overpaid**. ▶		10	
11	Enter the amount of line 10 to be **Credited to 2017 estimated tax** ▶	**Refunded** ▶	11	

Part VII-A **Statements Regarding Activities**

			Yes	No
1a	During the tax year, did the foundation attempt to influence any national, state, or local legislation or did it participate or intervene in any political campaign?	1a		No
b	Did it spend more than $100 during the year (either directly or indirectly) for political purposes (see Instructions for definition)?.	1b		No
	If the answer is "Yes" to ***1a*** *or* ***1b,*** *attach a detailed description of the activities and copies of any materials published or distributed by the foundation in connection with the activities*			
c	Did the foundation file **Form 1120-POL** for this year?.	1c		No
d	Enter the amount (if any) of tax on political expenditures (section 4955) imposed during the year **(1)** On the foundation ▶ $ ________ **(2)** On foundation managers ▶ $ ________			
e	Enter the reimbursement (if any) paid by the foundation during the year for political expenditure tax imposed on foundation managers ▶ $ ________			
2	Has the foundation engaged in any activities that have not previously been reported to the IRS? *If "Yes," attach a detailed description of the activities*	2		No
3	Has the foundation made any changes, not previously reported to the IRS, in its governing instrument, articles of incorporation, or bylaws, or other similar instruments? *If "Yes," attach a conformed copy of the changes*	3		No
4a	Did the foundation have unrelated business gross income of $1,000 or more during the year?.	4a		No
b	If "Yes," has it filed a tax return on **Form 990-T** for this year?.	4b		No
5	Was there a liquidation, termination, dissolution, or substantial contraction during the year? *If "Yes," attach the statement required by General Instruction T*	5		No
6	Are the requirements of section 508(e) (relating to sections 4941 through 4945) satisfied either • By language in the governing instrument, or • By state legislation that effectively amends the governing instrument so that no mandatory directions that conflict with the state law remain in the governing instrument?	6	Yes	
7	Did the foundation have at least $5,000 in assets at any time during the year? *If "Yes," complete Part II, col (c), and Part XV*	7	Yes	
8a	Enter the states to which the foundation reports or with which it is registered (see instructions) ▶AR			
b	If the answer is "Yes" to line 7, has the foundation furnished a copy of Form 990-PF to the Attorney General (or designate) of each state as required by General Instruction G? *If "No," attach explanation*	8b	Yes	
9	Is the foundation claiming status as a private operating foundation within the meaning of section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5) for calendar year 2016 or the taxable year beginning in 2016 (see instructions for Part XIV)? *If "Yes," complete Part XIV*	9		No
10	Did any persons become substantial contributors during the tax year? *If "Yes," attach a schedule listing their names and addresses*	10		No

Part VII-A Statements Regarding Activities (continued)

			Yes	No
11	At any time during the year, did the foundation, directly or indirectly, own a controlled entity within the meaning of section 512(b)(13)? If "Yes," attach schedule (see instructions).	11		No
12	Did the foundation make a distribution to a donor advised fund over which the foundation or a disqualified person had advisory privileges? If "Yes," attach statement (see instructions)	12		No
13	Did the foundation comply with the public inspection requirements for its annual returns and exemption application?	13	Yes	

Website address ▶www rossfoundation us

14 The books are in care of ▶Amanda Fenocchi Telephone no ▶(870) 246-9881

Located at ▶PO Box 335 Arkadelphia AR ZIP+4 ▶71923

15 Section 4947(a)(1) nonexempt charitable trusts filing Form 990-PF in lieu of **Form 1041** —Check here ▶ ☐
and enter the amount of tax-exempt interest received or accrued during the year ▶ 15

			Yes	No
16	At any time during calendar year 2016, did the foundation have an interest in or a signature or other authority over a bank, securities, or other financial account in a foreign country?	16		No
	See instructions for exceptions and filing requirements for FinCEN Form 114, Report of Foreign Bank and Financial Accounts (FBAR) If "Yes", enter the name of the foreign country ▶			

Part VII-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required

				Yes	No
	File Form 4720 if any item is checked in the "Yes" column, unless an exception applies.				
1a	During the year did the foundation (either directly or indirectly)				
	(1) Engage in the sale or exchange, or leasing of property with a disqualified person?	☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(2) Borrow money from, lend money to, or otherwise extend credit to (or accept it from) a disqualified person?	☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(3) Furnish goods, services, or facilities to (or accept them from) a disqualified person?	☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(4) Pay compensation to, or pay or reimburse the expenses of, a disqualified person?	☑ Yes ☐ No			
	(5) Transfer any income or assets to a disqualified person (or make any of either available for the benefit or use of a disqualified person)?	☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(6) Agree to pay money or property to a government official? (**Exception.** Check "No" if the foundation agreed to make a grant to or to employ the official for a period after termination of government service, if terminating within 90 days).	☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	If any answer is "Yes" to 1a(1)-(6), did **any** of the acts fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53 4941(d)-3 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance (see instructions)?		1b		No
	Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance check here ▶	☐			
c	Did the foundation engage in a prior year in any of the acts described in 1a, other than excepted acts, that were not corrected before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2016?		1c		No
2	Taxes on failure to distribute income (section 4942) (does not apply for years the foundation was a private operating foundation defined in section 4942(j)(3) or 4942(j)(5))				
a	At the end of tax year 2016, did the foundation have any undistributed income (lines 6d and 6e, Part XIII) for tax year(s) beginning before 2016?	☐ Yes ☑ No			
	If "Yes," list the years ▶ 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____				
b	Are there any years listed in 2a for which the foundation is **not** applying the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) (relating to incorrect valuation of assets) to the year's undistributed income? (If applying section 4942(a)(2) to **all** years listed, answer "No" and attach statement—see instructions)		2b		No
c	If the provisions of section 4942(a)(2) are being applied to **any** of the years listed in 2a, list the years here ▶ 20____, 20____, 20____, 20____				
3a	Did the foundation hold more than a 2% direct or indirect interest in any business enterprise at any time during the year?	☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	If "Yes," did it have excess business holdings in 2016 as a result of **(1)** any purchase by the foundation or disqualified persons after May 26, 1969, **(2)** the lapse of the 5-year period (or longer period approved by the Commissioner under section 4943(c)(7)) to dispose of holdings acquired by gift or bequest, or **(3)** the lapse of the 10-, 15-, or 20-year first phase holding period? *(Use Schedule C, Form 4720, to determine if the foundation had excess business holdings in 2016).*		3b		No
4a	Did the foundation invest during the year any amount in a manner that would jeopardize its charitable purposes?		4a		No
b	Did the foundation make any investment in a prior year (but after December 31, 1969) that could jeopardize its charitable purpose that had not been removed from jeopardy before the first day of the tax year beginning in 2016?		4b		No

Part VII-B Statements Regarding Activities for Which Form 4720 May Be Required (Continued)

5a	During the year did the foundation pay or incur any amount to			
	(1) Carry on propaganda, or otherwise attempt to influence legislation (section 4945(e))? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(2) Influence the outcome of any specific public election (see section 4955), or to carry on, directly or indirectly, any voter registration drive?. . . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(3) Provide a grant to an individual for travel, study, or other similar purposes? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(4) Provide a grant to an organization other than a charitable, etc , organization described in section 4945(d)(4)(A)? (see instructions). . . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	(5) Provide for any purpose other than religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals?. . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	If any answer is "Yes" to 5a(1)–(5), did **any** of the transactions fail to qualify under the exceptions described in Regulations section 53 4945 or in a current notice regarding disaster assistance (see instructions)?	**5b**		No
	Organizations relying on a current notice regarding disaster assistance check here. . . . ▶ ☐			
c	If the answer is "Yes" to question 5a(4), does the foundation claim exemption from the tax because it maintained expenditure responsibility for the grant?. . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
	If "Yes," attach the statement required by Regulations section 53 4945–5(d)			
6a	Did the foundation, during the year, receive any funds, directly or indirectly, to pay premiums on a personal benefit contract?. . . . ☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	Did the foundation, during the year, pay premiums, directly or indirectly, on a personal benefit contract?. . . .	**6b**		No
	If "Yes" to 6b, file Form 8870			
7a	At any time during the tax year, was the foundation a party to a prohibited tax shelter transaction? ☐ Yes ☑ No			
b	If yes, did the foundation receive any proceeds or have any net income attributable to the transaction?	**7b**		No

Part VIII Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors

1 List all officers, directors, trustees, foundation managers and their compensation (see instructions).

(a) Name and address	Title, and average hours per week **(b)** devoted to position	**(c)** Compensation **(If not paid, enter -0-)**	**(d)** Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	**(e)** Expense account, other allowances
See Additional Data Table				

2 Compensation of five highest-paid employees (other than those included on line 1—see instructions). If none, enter "NONE."

(a) Name and address of each employee paid more than $50,000	Title, and average hours per week **(b)** devoted to position	**(c)** Compensation	**(d)** Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	**(e)** Expense account, other allowances
David Hunt PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Sr Forester 40 00	86,000	11,517	7,800
Eric Rhodes PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Forester 40 00	58,000	10,890	7,800
Amanda Fenocchi PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Office Mgr 40 00	53,712	2,205	

Total number of other employees paid over $50,000. . . . . ▶

Part VIII **Information About Officers, Directors, Trustees, Foundation Managers, Highly Paid Employees, and Contractors** *(continued)*

3 Five highest-paid independent contractors for professional services (see instructions). If none, enter "NONE".

(a) Name and address of each person paid more than $50,000	**(b)** Type of service	**(c)** Compensation
NONE		

Total number of others receiving over $50,000 for professional services. . . . . ▶

Part IX-A **Summary of Direct Charitable Activities**

List the foundation's four largest direct charitable activities during the tax year Include relevant statistical information such as the number of organizations and other beneficiaries served, conferences convened, research papers produced, etc	Expenses
1 The Ross Foundation continued its conservation forestry management program in 2016 by incorporating diverse management techniques which included natural stand management, plantation stand management, hardwood management systems, and unique plant and habitat area management Conservation forestry objectives are centered on the incorporation of these various management components resulting in stand diversity, plant diversity, and habitat diversity throughout all lands owned and managed by The Ross Foundation as charitable assets To accomplish its mission, The Ross Foundation employs a full time staff of professional foresters, biologists, and technicians to design, implement, and monitor a comprehensive conservation forestry management program In 2016, The Ross Foundation incurred $400,202 in expenses related to salaries and benefits for professional staff directly related to the continuation of its conservation forestry program Additionally, expenses totaling $181,021 were incurred fo	581,223
2 The Ross Foundations land is available to the public for recreational opportunities During 2016, recreational users enjoyed various pursuits including hunting, fishing, day hiking, camping, horseback riding, picnicking, mountain bike riding, swimming, backpacking, bird watching, nature study, photography, and walking for aerobic activity During 2016, The Ross Foundation spent $1,320 on material and $48,405 in salary and benefits for allocated staff time related to public recreation administration and management activities on The Ross Foundations property	49,725
3 The Ross Foundations lands are available for educational and research activities In 2016, The Ross Foundation conducted environmental education field trips for Henderson State University ecology students and Ouachita Baptist University biology students to expose them, in an outdoor classroom setting, to the principles of the areas local ecology and how those ecological interactions are incorporated into The Ross Foundations conservation forestry management activities Also in 2016, The Ross Foundation provided sites for outdoor laboratory study, native fauna inventory and assessment, and extension outreach with various natural resource agencies and user groups The Ross Foundation contributed $9,218 in staff time related to coordinating and leading these environmental education and research activities	9,218
4	

Part IX-B **Summary of Program-Related Investments** (see instructions)

Describe the two largest program-related investments made by the foundation during the tax year on lines 1 and 2	Amount
1	
2	
All other program-related investments See instructions	
3	
Total. Add lines 1 through 3 . . . . ▶	

Part X **Minimum Investment Return** (All domestic foundations must complete this part Foreign foundations,see instructions)

1	Fair market value of assets not used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc , purposes			
a	Average monthly fair market value of securities.		1a	0
b	Average of monthly cash balances.		1b	1,036,392
c	Fair market value of all other assets (see instructions).		1c	0
d	**Total** (add lines 1a, b, and c).		1d	1,036,392
e	Reduction claimed for blockage or other factors reported on lines 1a and 1c (attach detailed explanation).	1e 0		
2	Acquisition indebtedness applicable to line 1 assets.		2	
3	Subtract line 2 from line 1d.		3	1,036,392
4	Cash deemed held for charitable activities Enter 1 1/2% of line 3 (for greater amount, see instructions).		4	15,546
5	**Net value of noncharitable-use assets.** Subtract line 4 from line 3 Enter here and on Part V, line 4		5	1,020,846
6	**Minimum investment return.** Enter 5% of line 5.		6	51,042

Part XI **Distributable Amount** (see instructions) (Section 4942(j)(3) and (j)(5) private operating foundations and certain foreign organizations check here ▶ ☐ and do not complete this part)

1	Minimum investment return from Part X, line 6.		1	51,042
2a	Tax on investment income for 2016 from Part VI, line 5.	2a 19,114		
b	Income tax for 2016 (This does not include the tax from Part VI).	2b		
c	Add lines 2a and 2b.		2c	19,114
3	Distributable amount before adjustments Subtract line 2c from line 1.		3	31,928
4	Recoveries of amounts treated as qualifying distributions.		4	
5	Add lines 3 and 4.		5	31,928
6	Deduction from distributable amount (see instructions).		6	
7	**Distributable amount** as adjusted Subtract line 6 from line 5 Enter here and on Part XIII, line 1.		7	31,928

Part XII **Qualifying Distributions** (see instructions)

1	Amounts paid (including administrative expenses) to accomplish charitable, etc , purposes		
a	Expenses, contributions, gifts, etc —total from Part I, column (d), line 26.	1a	1,607,746
b	Program-related investments—total from Part IX-B.	1b	
2	Amounts paid to acquire assets used (or held for use) directly in carrying out charitable, etc , purposes.	2	4,664
3	Amounts set aside for specific charitable projects that satisfy the		
a	Suitability test (prior IRS approval required).	3a	
b	Cash distribution test (attach the required schedule).	3b	
4	**Qualifying distributions.** Add lines 1a through 3b Enter here and on Part V, line 8, and Part XIII, line 4	4	1,612,410
5	Foundations that qualify under section 4940(e) for the reduced rate of tax on net investment income Enter 1% of Part I, line 27b (see instructions).	5	19,114
6	**Adjusted qualifying distributions.** Subtract line 5 from line 4.	6	1,593,296

Note: The amount on line 6 will be used in Part V, column (b), in subsequent years when calculating whether the foundation qualifies for the section 4940(e) reduction of tax in those years

Part XIII **Undistributed Income** (see instructions)

		(a) Corpus	(b) Years prior to 2015	(c) 2015	(d) 2016
1 Distributable amount for 2016 from Part XI, line 7					31,928
2 Undistributed income, if any, as of the end of 2016					
a Enter amount for 2015 only.					
b Total for prior years 20____ , 20____ , 20____					
3 Excess distributions carryover, if any, to 2016					
a From 2011.	1,248,230				
b From 2012.	1,378,422				
c From 2013.	1,311,381				
d From 2014.	1,365,976				
e From 2015.	1,829,962				
f **Total** of lines 3a through e.		7,133,971			
4 Qualifying distributions for 2016 from Part XII, line 4 ▶ $ 1,612,410					
a Applied to 2015, but not more than line 2a					
b Applied to undistributed income of prior years (Election required—see instructions).					
c Treated as distributions out of corpus (Election required—see instructions).		0			
d Applied to 2016 distributable amount.					31,928
e Remaining amount distributed out of corpus		1,580,482			
5 Excess distributions carryover applied to 2016					
(If an amount appears in column (d), the same amount must be shown in column (a))					
6 **Enter the net total of each column as indicated below:**					
a Corpus Add lines 3f, 4c, and 4e Subtract line 5		8,714,453			
b Prior years' undistributed income Subtract line 4b from line 2b					
c Enter the amount of prior years' undistributed income for which a notice of deficiency has been issued, or on which the section 4942(a) tax has been previously assessed.					
d Subtract line 6c from line 6b Taxable amount —see instructions					
e Undistributed income for 2015 Subtract line 4a from line 2a Taxable amount—see instructions					
f Undistributed income for 2016 Subtract lines 4d and 5 from line 1 This amount must be distributed in 2017					0
7 Amounts treated as distributions out of corpus to satisfy requirements imposed by section 170(b)(1)(F) or 4942(g)(3) (Election may be required - see instructions)					
8 Excess distributions carryover from 2011 not applied on line 5 or line 7 (see instructions) . . .		1,248,230			
9 **Excess distributions carryover to 2017.** Subtract lines 7 and 8 from line 6a		7,466,223			
10 Analysis of line 9					
a Excess from 2012. . . .	1,378,422				
b Excess from 2013. . . .	1,311,381				
c Excess from 2014. . . .	1,365,976				
d Excess from 2015. . . .	1,829,962				
e Excess from 2016. . . .	1,580,482				

Part XIV Private Operating Foundations (see instructions and Part VII-A, question 9)

1a If the foundation has received a ruling or determination letter that it is a private operating foundation, and the ruling is effective for 2016, enter the date of the ruling . . . . ▶

b Check box to indicate whether the organization is a private operating foundation described in section ☐ 4942(j)(3) or ☐ 4942(j)(5)

	Tax year	Prior 3 years			(e) Total
	(a) 2016	**(b)** 2015	**(c)** 2014	**(d)** 2013	
2a Enter the lesser of the adjusted net income from Part I or the minimum investment return from Part X for each year listed					
b 85% of line 2a					
c Qualifying distributions from Part XII, line 4 for each year listed					
d Amounts included in line 2c not used directly for active conduct of exempt activities					
e Qualifying distributions made directly for active conduct of exempt activities Subtract line 2d from line 2c					
3 Complete 3a, b, or c for the alternative test relied upon					
a "Assets" alternative test—enter **(1)** Value of all assets					
(2) Value of assets qualifying under section 4942(j)(3)(B)(i)					
b "Endowment" alternative test— enter 2/3 of minimum investment return shown in Part X, line 6 for each year listed					
c "Support" alternative test—enter **(1)** Total support other than gross investment income (interest, dividends, rents, payments on securities loans (section 512(a)(5)), or royalties)					
(2) Support from general public and 5 or more exempt organizations as provided in section 4942(j)(3)(B)(iii)					
(3) Largest amount of support from an exempt organization					
(4) Gross investment income					

Part XV Supplementary Information (Complete this part only if the organization had $5,000 or more in assets at any time during the year—see instructions.)

1 Information Regarding Foundation Managers:

a List any managers of the foundation who have contributed more than 2% of the total contributions received by the foundation before the close of any tax year (but only if they have contributed more than $5,000) (See section 507(d)(2))

b List any managers of the foundation who own 10% or more of the stock of a corporation (or an equally large portion of the ownership of a partnership or other entity) of which the foundation has a 10% or greater interest

2 Information Regarding Contribution, Grant, Gift, Loan, Scholarship, etc., Programs:

Check here ▶ ☐ if the foundation only makes contributions to preselected charitable organizations and does not accept unsolicited requests for funds If the foundation makes gifts, grants, etc (see instructions) to individuals or organizations under other conditions, complete items 2a, b, c, and d

a The name, address, and telephone number or e-mail address of the person to whom applications should be addressed

Mary Elizabeth Eldridge
PO Box 335
Arkadelphia, AR 71923
(870) 246-9881
meeldridge@rossfoundation us

b The form in which applications should be submitted and information and materials they should include

See attachment

c Any submission deadlines

See attachment

d Any restrictions or limitations on awards, such as by geographical areas, charitable fields, kinds of institutions, or other factors

See attachment

Part XV **Supplementary Information** (continued)

3 Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year* See Additional Data Table				
Total . . . . ▶ **3a**				359,391
b *Approved for future payment* See Additional Data Table				
Total . . . . ▶ **3b**				391,384

Part XVI-A Analysis of Income-Producing Activities

Enter gross amounts unless otherwise indicated	Unrelated business income		Excluded by section 512, 513, or 514		(e) Related or exempt function income (See instructions)
	(a) Business code	(b) Amount	(c) Exclusion code	(d) Amount	
1 Program service revenue					
a					
b					
c					
d					
e					
f					
g Fees and contracts from government agencies					
2 Membership dues and assessments. . . .					
3 Interest on savings and temporary cash investments			14	1,088	
4 Dividends and interest from securities. . . .					
5 Net rental income or (loss) from real estate					
a Debt-financed property.					
b Not debt-financed property.			16	131,719	
6 Net rental income or (loss) from personal property					
7 Other investment income.					
8 Gain or (loss) from sales of assets other than inventory					1,700,264
9 Net income or (loss) from special events					
10 Gross profit or (loss) from sales of inventory					
11 Other revenue					
a Hunting License Fees			16	71,975	
b Royalties			15	6,395	
c					
d					
e					
12 Subtotal Add columns (b), (d), and (e). .				211,177	1,700,264

13 **Total.** Add line 12, columns (b), (d), and (e). **13** 1,911,441

(See worksheet in line 13 instructions to verify calculations)

Part XVI-B Relationship of Activities to the Accomplishment of Exempt Purposes

Line No. ▼	Explain below how each activity for which income is reported in column (e) of Part XVI-A contributed importantly to the accomplishment of the foundation's exempt purposes (other than by providing funds for such purposes) (See instructions)
8	Revenue received from the sale of timber harvested in connection with the Foundation's forestry conservation and management programs

Part XVII **Information Regarding Transfers To and Transactions and Relationships With Noncharitable Exempt Organizations**

		Yes	No
1 Did the organization directly or indirectly engage in any of the following with any other organization described in section 501 (c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3) organizations) or in section 527, relating to political organizations?			
a Transfers from the reporting foundation to a noncharitable exempt organization of			
(1) Cash.	**1a(1)**		**No**
(2) Other assets.	**1a(2)**		**No**
b Other transactions			
(1) Sales of assets to a noncharitable exempt organization.	**1b(1)**		**No**
(2) Purchases of assets from a noncharitable exempt organization.	**1b(2)**		**No**
(3) Rental of facilities, equipment, or other assets.	**1b(3)**		**No**
(4) Reimbursement arrangements.	**1b(4)**		**No**
(5) Loans or loan guarantees.	**1b(5)**		**No**
(6) Performance of services or membership or fundraising solicitations.	**1b(6)**		**No**
c Sharing of facilities, equipment, mailing lists, other assets, or paid employees.	**1c**		**No**

d If the answer to any of the above is "Yes," complete the following schedule Column **(b)** should always show the fair market value of the goods, other assets, or services given by the reporting foundation If the foundation received less than fair market value in any transaction or sharing arrangement, show in column **(d)** the value of the goods, other assets, or services received

(a) Line No	**(b)** Amount involved	**(c)** Name of noncharitable exempt organization	**(d)** Description of transfers, transactions, and sharing arrangements

2a Is the foundation directly or indirectly affiliated with, or related to, one or more tax-exempt organizations described in section 501(c) of the Code (other than section 501(c)(3)) or in section 527?. ☐ Yes ☑ No

b If "Yes," complete the following schedule

(a) Name of organization	**(b)** Type of organization	**(c)** Description of relationship

Sign Here

Under penalties of perjury, I declare that I have examined this return, including accompanying schedules and statements, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete Declaration of preparer (other than taxpayer) is based on all information of which preparer has any knowledge

****** | 2017-05-10 | ******

Signature of officer or trustee | Date | Title

May the IRS discuss this return with the preparer shown below (see instr)? ☑ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Paid Preparer Use Only

Print/Type preparer's name	Preparer's Signature	Date	Check if self-employed ▶ ☑	PTIN
Jody Blazek				P00072674
Firm's name ▶ Blazek & Vetterling				Firm's EIN ▶
Firm's address ▶ 2900 Weslayan Suite 200 Houston, TX 770275132				Phone no (713) 439-5739

Form 990PF Part VIII Line 1 - List all officers, directors, trustees, foundation managers and their compensation

(a) Name and address	**(b)** Title, and average hours per week devoted to position	**(c)** Compensation **(If not paid, enter -0-)**	**(d)** Contributions to employee benefit plans and deferred compensation	**(e)** Expense account, other allowances
Ross Whipple PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Chairman/Trust 7 00	47,000	14,933	
Mary Whipple PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Sec /Trustee 2 00	12,000		
Mary Elizabeth Eldridge PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Dir /Trustee 15 00	50,760	11,128	
Mark Karnes PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Dir /Trustee 40 00	113,663	16,996	10,200
Clark Tennyson PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Trustee 2 00	12,000		
Peggy Clark PO Box 335 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	Trustee 2 00	12,000		

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year*				
American Cancer Society 901 N University Little Rock, AR 72207	N/A	PC	Relay for Life	1,000
Arkadelphia Choir Boosters 1200 Cutler Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Arkadelphia Community Foundation 601 Main Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Community mini-grants	15,000
Arkadelphia Public Schools 235 North 11th Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	GOV	CONE Foundation and Project Prom	9,500
Arkansas Children's Hospital Founda 1 Childrens Way Slot 661 Little Rock, AR 72202	N/A	PC	Dental Sealant Program for Arkadelphia Public Schools	20,000
Arkansas Forestry Assoc Education F 1213 W 4th St Little Rock, AR 72201	N/A	PC	Unrestricted grant	35,991
Arkansas Game Fish Foundation 2 Natural Resources Drive Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	JMWMA and Big Timber lease fees	115,321
Arkansas Sheriffs' Youth Ranches 100 Saint Vincent Place Batesville, AR 72501	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Arkansas Single Parent Scholarship 614 E Emma Ave Ste 119 Springdale, AR 72764	N/A	PC	Ross Scholars and matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	7,500
Baptist Health Foundation 9601 Interstate 630 Exit 7 Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	Steak Soiree fundraiser	1,000
Boys and Girls Club of Clark County 1305 Caddo Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
CASA of Clark County PO Box 987 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Community Family Enrichment Center 301 North 23rd Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Clark County Arts Humanities Counci 625 Main Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	General support and matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	1,000
Dawson Educational Cooperative 711 Clinton Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	GOV	Mini-grant programs	15,530
Total . . . . ▶ **3a**				359,391

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year*				
Group Living Inc 708 Main Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	AHTD minivan with ramp and matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	7,348
Henderson State University Foundati Box 7550 HSU Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	SO III FI	STEM camp and matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	3,500
Ouachita Baptist University 410 Ouachita Street Box 3754 Arkadelphia, AR 71998	N/A	PC	Foster Grandparent Program and Ben Elrod Center for Family and Community	10,300
Percy and Donna Malone Child Safety PO Box 292 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	ARGives match, operating expenses	20,500
Pregnancy Resource Ctr for SW Arkan 911 Clinton Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Spanish Curriculum Earn While You Learn and matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	2,660
The Nature Conservancy 601 N University Ave Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	Unrestricted grant	35,991
Vera Lloyd Presbyterian Home and Fa 1501 North University Suite 345 Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	Providing care for youth in need from Clark and Hot Spring Counties	6,000
Arkansas Hunters Feeding the Hungry 102 Breezehill Road Hot Springs, AR 71913	N/A	PC	Deer processing in Clark County to feed needy	1,000
City of Arkadelphia 700 Clay Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	GOV	Southwest Arkansas Regional Intermodal Authority administrative expenses	15,000
The Arkansas Environ Education Asso PO Box 1439 N Little Rock, AR 72115	N/A	PC	Beyond the Classroom Environmental Education from the Ozarks to the Delta 2016 AEEA Expo	500
Baptist Health 9601 Baptist Health Drive Little Rock, AR 72205	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Caddo River Art Guild 1511 N 10th St Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Round About Artist Tour 2016 and matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	1,250
Evergreen Baptist Church PO Box 11043 El Dorado, AR 71730	N/A	PC	Food pantry and matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
First Baptist Church of Arkadelphia 923 Pine Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Arms Around Arkadelphia	3,000
First United Methodist Church 107 North 9th Street Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Total . . . . ▶ **3a**				359,391

Form 990PF Part XV Line 3 - Grants and Contributions Paid During the Year or Approved for Future Payment

Recipient Name and address (home or business)	If recipient is an individual, show any relationship to any foundation manager or substantial contributor	Foundation status of recipient	Purpose of grant or contribution	Amount
a *Paid during the year*				
Hot Springs Documentary Film Instit 659 Oachita Ave Hot Springs, AR 71901	N/A	PC	HSDFF Family 2016	3,500
Humane Society of Clark County PO Box 435 Arkadelphia, AR 71923	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Ouachita Childrens Center Inc PO Box 1180 Hot Springs, AR 71902	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Lighthouse Ministries 5446 SFC 311 Forrest City, AR 72335	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Living Stones Ranch 2669 Babcock Rd Rockport, AR 72104	N/A	PC	Therapeutic equine-assisted mentoring	3,000
Dollywood Foundation 111 Dollywood Ln Pigeon Forge, TN 37863	N/A	PC	Imagination library	15,000
Ouachita Public Schools 1399 Midway Road Donaldson, AR 71941	N/A	GOV	Flashing caution light on Highway 67	3,000
The C A L L PO Box 25524 Little Rock, AR 72221	N/A	PC	Matching funds for ArkansasGives Day	500
Total . . . . ▶ **3a**				359,391

TY 2016 Accounting Fees Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
Financial statement preparation	21,722	0	0	21,722
Tax compliance	5,741	0	0	0

Note: To capture the full content of this document, please select landscape mode (11" x 8.5") when printing.

TY 2016 Depreciation Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Description of Property	Date Acquired	Cost or Other Basis	Prior Years' Depreciation	Computation Method	Rate / Life (# of years)	Current Year's Depreciation Expense	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Cost of Goods Sold Not Included
Buildings	2001-01-01	905,913	319,960	SL	39 0000	22,914			
Equipment	2001-01-01	227,302	233,994	SL	5 0000	5,737			

TY 2016 Land, Etc. Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Category / Item	Cost / Other Basis	Accumulated Depreciation	Book Value	End of Year Fair Market Value
Auto./Transportation Equip.	5,100	5,100		
Machinery and Equipment	239,165	235,195	3,970	3,970
Buildings	902,233	339,272	562,961	562,961
Land	75,319		75,319	75,319

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TY 2016 Legal Fees Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
General governance & counsel	8,470	0	0	8,808

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TY 2016 Mortgages and Notes Payable Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Total Mortgage Amount: 4,085,000

Item No.	1
Lender's Name	Clark County Arkansas
Lender's Title	
Relationship to Insider	None
Original Amount of Loan	10,000,000
Balance Due	4,085,000
Date of Note	2006-12
Maturity Date	2021-12
Repayment Terms	Semi-annual payments of P&I
Interest Rate	4.2500
Security Provided by Borrower	12,838 acres of timber land
Purpose of Loan	Acquire timber land
Description of Lender Consideration	Cash
Consideration FMV	4085000

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TY 2016 Other Expenses Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Other Expenses Schedule

Description	Revenue and Expenses per Books	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
Bank fees	175			175
Bond issuance costs amortization	7,310			7,310
Computer service and programming	9,600			9,600
Conservation and wildlife expenses	94,393			93,284
Dues and subscriptions	5,198			5,198
Insurance	48,498			49,834
Office supplies	3,465			3,465
Other expenses	671			671

TY 2016 Other Income Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Other Income Schedule

Description	Revenue And Expenses Per Books	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income
Hunting License Fees	71,975	71,975	
Royalties	6,395	6,395	

TY 2016 Other Increases Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Description	Amount
Unrealized increase in value of timber and related land	1,035,197

TY 2016 Taxes Schedule

Name: The Ross Foundation

EIN: 71-6060574

Software ID: 16000303

Software Version: 2016v3.0

Category	Amount	Net Investment Income	Adjusted Net Income	Disbursements for Charitable Purposes
Excise tax	5,000			
Property tax	134,160			134,146
State tax	925			925

The Ross Foundation
P.O. Box 335
Arkadelphia, Arkansas 71923

Information for Grant Applicants and Guidelines for Submitting Proposal

History

The Ross Foundation began operation in early 1967 It was founded by Esther Ross and her daughter, Jane Ross Its initial endowment came from the estate of Esther's father and Jane's grandfather, J G. Clark From the original core lands used to endow the Ross Foundation, the Foundation has grown to approximately 63,000 acres of land, primarily situated in Clark County and Hot Spring County, Arkansas These lands are held for conservation and charitable purposes Through the use of good forest management practices, revenue is produced and used to fund the Foundation's philanthropic program Jane Ross, Robert C Rhodes and H W "Bill" McMillan served as the Foundation's first trustees The current trustees are Ross M. Whipple, Chairman, Mary Elizabeth Eldridge, Mark Karnes, Clark Tennyson, Peggy Clark, and Mary Whipple

General Purpose

The Ross Foundation seeks proposals for innovative programs and projects from organizations which can demonstrate tax exempt status under Section 501 (c) (3) and public charity status under Sections 509 (a)(1) or (2) of the Internal Revenue Code From the Ross Foundation's beginning, it has primarily concentrated its grants in the following areas. education, arts and cultural enrichment, community beautification and improvement, historical preservation, mental health and the developmentally disabled, and forestry research and conservation management The major focus of the Foundation's philanthropic program has historically been restricted to projects that are located in the Clark County, Arkansas area Funding is not provided for political lobbying, political advocacy or legislative activities, or grants to individuals Funding is generally not provided for operating expenses of established agencies, grants to foreign organizations, grants for foreign expenditure, or debt reduction drives

Application Procedure

Thank you for your interest in strengthening our community If you believe that your project or organization meets our guidelines, we invite you to apply for a grant The application process consists of two steps. The first step is the preparation of a pre-proposal, which *may be made at any time during the year* The pre-proposal is reviewed to determine if the proposal is within the area of interest of the Ross Foundation Pre-proposals consist of information provided on a one-page form that is attached to these guidelines The pre-proposal form requests general information about the organization applying and a brief description of the proposed project A preliminary budget and letter communicating the pre-proposal should be attached and signed by an official who has the authority to sign contracts for that organization Pre-proposals are accepted at any time. Trustees will review the pre-proposals that have been received to date at each monthly board meeting

Those pre-proposals approved by the Trustees will be asked to submit a full proposal The trustees of the Ross Foundation consider full proposals and approve grants three times a year

Full Proposals Received by	Will be Reviewed by	Funds for Approved Projects Will be Available by
September 1	October 31	January 1 of the next year
February 1	March 31	May 1
June 1	July 31	September 1

You will be notified of the Board's decision on your full proposal within two weeks following the board meeting at which the proposal is considered In addition to the submission of a grant application, we may also request additional information or a site visit during the application process.

Full Proposal

If you are asked to submit a full proposal to the Ross Foundation, please comply with the following guidelines By submitting an application to the Ross Foundation it is understood that the party responsible for submission of a grant application has obtained the necessary approval to submit the application from the applying agency's board of directors One application should be submitted, unbound, and include the following information

1 Applicant Information shall include

- Brief description of the nature and history of the applying organization (This description should state the year that the organization was formed, explain the primary purpose of the organization and state its general area of operation)
- Brief description of the applying organization's current programs, activities and accomplishments
- Financial Information The Ross Foundation needs to understand the financial structure of the applying organization As such, please provide pertinent financial information, and we may request additional information at a later date
- List of current board members

2 A copy of an IRS letter verifying the applying organization's Section 501 (c)(3) status or public charity status under Sections 509(a)(1) or (2) of the Internal Revenue Code, if applicable, and an affirmation letter signed by a responsible officer, director, trustee or chief executive of the organization that the IRS determination letter has not been revoked and that the present operation of the organization and its current sources of support are not inconsistent with the organization's continuing classification stated in the determination letter

3 Proposal Details shall include

- Statement of need / problem to be addressed (This statement should describe the specific need that has been identified)
- Narrative describing how the project will be conducted (It is understood that the size and nature of this narrative will vary depending on the characteristics of each project The purpose of this section is to present any programmatic and organizational aspects of the project)
- Description of project goals and the programs /activities planned to accomplish these goals
- Timeline for the project, if appropriate
- List of other organizations, if any, cooperating in the implementation or funding of the project
- List of names of key staff / volunteers responsible for project implementation
- List of other individuals, corporations and foundations to whom you have submitted a grant application for this project, and any results (or projected results) from these other sources
- Long term sources / strategies for funding of project at the end of the grant period, if appropriate
- Expected impact, such as how the persons served will benefit, how your organization will benefit, and how the community as a whole will benefit

4 A statement regarding how the organization will evaluate the success of this project and how and when it will be measured

5 Project Budget (depending on the nature of the project, the budget should contain all or part of the following items)

- Salaries, wages, fringe benefits, consultants
- Travel expenses, including per diem
- Expendable materials and supplies
- Equipment
- Cost to conduct evaluation of project
- Existing organization funds which can be contributed to this project
- An itemized list of other costs that may be associated with this project

If the project involves the use of funds from other sources, the source should be identified, and please indicate what percentage of the total funds needed to carry out the project is being requested of the Ross Foundation The following format would be useful in presenting this information

EXAMPLE

Item	Funds Requested from Ross Foundation	Funds furnished by other sources	Total Cost
Salaries	$------	$------	$------
Travel	------	------	------
Supplies	------	------	------
Equipment	------	------	------
Itemized List of Other Cost	------	------	------
TOTAL	$-------	$-------	$-------

A description of major equipment should be attached to the budget sheet
No changes in the use of approved grant funds or in the direction of the project or program may be made without the Ross Foundation's prior written approval

Monitoring Grants, Payment and Grant Evaluation

The purpose of monitoring is to help the grantee succeed, to help the foundation evaluate the success of the grant and to receive input from the grantee on the project and other projects which might evolve from it Once grants are approved, the Ross Foundation staff may monitor grants by telephone, correspondence and/or site visits
Grants may be paid in full or in installments based upon the Acceptance Agreement set up by the Ross Foundation and grantee

Grantees will be asked to make a final report that complies with the Ross Foundation's reporting guidelines and may be asked to make interim reports if funding is disbursed in installments Once a project is concluded, grantees are required to evaluate the project in light of its original goals, numbers of people served, outcomes and social impact We expect grantees to be honest about failures as well as about success Reporting requirements will be set forth in the Acceptance Agreement set up between the Ross Foundation and grantee

For additional information or questions, please contact
Mary Elizabeth Eldridge, Director of Programs, P O Box 335, Arkadelphia, AR 71923, phone 870 246 9881, fax 870 246 9674, email meeldridge@rossfoundation us or Amanda Fenocchi, Assistant Grants Officer, email Amanda@rossfoundation us

PRE-PROPOSAL INFORMATION

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: ______________________

PROJECT TITLE: ______________________

DATE: ______________________

DATE ORGANIZATION
ESTABLISHED: ______________________

CONTACT PERSON: ______________________

CONTRACTING AGENT: ______________________
(If different from Contact Person)

ADDRESS: ______________________

CITY, STATE, & ZIP: ______________________

PHONE NUMBER: ______________________

FAX NUMBER: ______________________

EMAIL ADDRESS: ______________________

AMOUNT OF REQUEST: ______________________

(Please also attach a preliminary budget for this project)

TIME FRAME OF PROJECT: ______________________

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PROJECT: (Summary must be limited to the space provided)