

**File Code:** 2500; 3000**Date:** July 17, 2023**Route To:****Subject:** United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership Proposal Solicitation for Fiscal Year 2024**To:** Forest Supervisors, Forest Manager, Area Supervisor**OPTIONAL REPLY DUE AUGUST 22, 2023**

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are requesting proposals for funding under the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership (JCLRP) Program beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.

The JCLRP is a tool for achieving increased collaboration among federal agencies, states, tribes, and private partners to target investments for addressing landscape-scale priorities. With the codification of the JCLRP (16 USC 6592d) in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, we look forward to continuing to build on the past ten years of accomplishments.

The intent of the program is to improve the health and resilience of forest landscapes by coordinating eligible activities across land ownerships. The objectives of JCLRP are: 1) to reduce the risk of wildfire, 2) to protect water quality and supply, and 3) to improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species. Selected projects will enhance collaboration among the Forest Service and NRCS, as well as many local, non-governmental, tribal, and private landowners. JCLRP will align with USDA's strategic goals by selecting projects that demonstrate a cross-boundary effort, work at the appropriate scale, and have mutually defined priorities that lead to desired outcomes.

Proposals will be evaluated and selected based on their merit. Proposals may address one, two, or all three of the JCLRP objectives with the eligible activities. The criteria used to evaluate and select proposals are described fully in the enclosed appendix. These criteria range from collaborations with a diverse set of stakeholders; to alignment with state, tribal, or regional priorities; to measurable outcomes.

Selected projects are designed to measurably improve the health and resiliency of forest and rangeland ecosystems, while benefiting local communities. To ensure the equitable delivery of programs to communities, proposal development and project implementation needs to advance an inclusive approach. Projects leverage technical and financial resources between agencies and with our partners to achieve on-the-ground accomplishments across jurisdictional boundaries.

Successful projects use this partnership to focus investment by both agencies within a three-year period and coordinate and accelerate efforts within a shared landscape. The spatial and timing linkages of these projects enable cumulative impacts to be more beneficial and efficient.



Requirements for proposals submitted for FY 2024 funding consideration are as follows:

1. Proposals must include signatures indicating the support of the Forest Supervisor, NRCS State Conservationist, State Forester (from the respective state agency), and Forest Service Regional Forester.
2. Proposals must include, at a minimum, a combination of eligible activities on private and public land to support at least one JCLRP objective. Projects that also include tribal lands can be funded by both the Forest Service and NRCS on those tribal lands. In most cases, the public land will be within the National Forest System, but alternatively may be state lands, such as a state forest, state wildlife management area, state park, or combination thereof.
3. All NEPA requirements and documentation for planned year 1 work on public lands will be complete by October 1, 2023.

Draft un-signed proposals should be emailed to wallace.dillon@usda.gov by August 22, 2023, for Regional Office review. Final proposals should be submitted electronically to the Washington Office shared mailbox: NRCS.FS.Joint.Chiefs@usda.gov by September 5, 2023. The enclosures provide additional guidance and the required proposal templates. A joint evaluation of proposals will be completed by the Forest Service and NRCS at National Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Selections will be announced as early in FY 2024 as possible, depending on availability of funds.

For questions about Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership Program or proposal submissions, please contact Wallace Dillon at wallace.dillon@usda.gov or 470-725-7132.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kenderick Arney (for)".

KENDERICK ARNEY
Regional Forester

Enclosures (3)

cc: State Foresters, Micah Thorning, Kay Reed, Lisa Lewis, Wallace Dillon, Paul Gellerstedt