USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA Forest Service Cooperative Forestry

Programs & Funding Opportunities

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October 29, 2026



Cooperative Forestry Programs

- Wood Innovations
- Urban and Community Forestry, $35M / year
- Forest Legacy, $96M / year
- Forest Health
- Landowner Assistance, $26 / year

Formula allocation & competitive funding



Funded Partners & Eligible Entities

- State forestry agencies
- Other state agencies
- Local and county governments
- Educational institutions
- Non-profit organizations
- Tribes and tribal organizations



Open Funding Opportunities

- FY26 Landscape Scale Restoration; 10/28/26 – 01/26/27
  - Non-Federal Lands: https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/364144
  - Tribes: https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/364145



Upcoming Funding Opportunities

- Winter 2026
  - FY26 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
  - FY27 Landscape Scale Restoration
  - FY27 Cooperative Forestry and Open Space
- Spring 2027
  - FY29 Forest Legacy Program



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Forest Legacy Program – State Process

- Each State has its own application process, timelines, and procedures
- Must be within a Forest Legacy Area as identified in State Forest Action Plan
- Minimum of 75% forest cover, or plan to reforest
- Willing landowner(s)
- Project can include multiple tracts, multiple landowners
- State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committees recommends projects for federal funding in alignment with state priorities



Rensselaer Plateau Working Forest, New York *Photo credit: Jim De Waal Malefyt/Hudson-Taconic Lands*

Forest Legacy Program – Federal Process

- *May- June:* Request for proposals sent to States, available in Grants.gov
- *September:* States transmit up to 5 new proposals
  - Not to exceed $30 million per state, $20 million per project
- *October-November*: The National Review Panel evaluates and ranks projects using established criteria
  - Comprised of federal and state representatives
- *November - December:* Clearance for President's Budget
  - Agency and Department leadership
  - Office of Management and Budget
- *February:* President's Budget is released with a list of projects
- Congress approves the final list of projects to be funded through mandatory LWCF funds in annual appropriations.
- Grants issued by USFS to States in support of funded projects

  ~2 years after state proposal to USFS

Community Forest and Open Space Program

- Established in the 2008 Farm Bill
- Provides financial assistance to eligible entities to acquire and establish community forests that provide community benefits
  - Fee simple land acquisitions
- Priorities:
  - Local ownership and management of forests
  - Community involvement
  - Preventing conversion of private forests to non-forest uses
- All community forests must provide public access
- Funding: $5.5 million appropriated in FY26



Arcata Community Forest, CA; Photo by Dana Walsh, USFS

Community Forest and Open Space Program



Headwaters Cedar Community Forest, WI; Northwood Alliance

Applicants

- Local governments (municipal, county, and other local gov)
- Qualified conservation nonprofit organizations
- Federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations

Land

- Privately owned and threatened by conversion to non-forest uses
- Must be at least 75% forested
- At least 5 acres in size
- Not held in trust
- If acquired by an eligible entity, can provide community benefits and allow public access