



Fiscal Year 2023 Forest Service Legacy Reprogramming Request

Per the reprogramming guidance contained in the Joint Explanatory Statement, Division G, that accompanied the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (Public Law 117-328), the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service requests approval to reprogram \$18,174,000 in recovered balances from completed or failed Forest Legacy projects. In fiscal year (FY) 2021, a reprogramming of \$25,215,000 of recovered funds was approved to fund seven projects in seven states. A reprogramming request submitted in FY 2022 was not approved.

The recovered funds will provide grants to five states to acquire five high priority Forest Legacy lands. These five projects were reviewed and ranked using a competitive process but fell outside of available funds in FY 2023. The FY 2023 project list included 22 projects of which 14 projects were fully funded. Project number 15, Maunawili Valley, was partially funded.

Reprogrammed funds would be used to complete funding for the Maunawili Valley Project and fund the next four projects on the priority list (Table 2). These acquisitions will provide important public benefits such as protecting sensitive habitats and watersheds, conserving important cultural resources, and supporting rural communities that rely on resource management and recreation. Several of these acquisitions will provide new recreation opportunities for the public, including increased access to public lands.

Table 1 shows the balances from 11 projects funded between FY 2014 and FY 2020 that were recovered. These recovered funds will be used to complete additional Forest Legacy projects on the FY 2023 project list (Table 2).

Table 1. Source of recovered funds for the FY 2023 Forest Legacy reprogramming request.

State	Project Name	Reason Funds Recovered	Recovered funds for Reprogramming
AL	Coastal Headwaters	Recovered balance from completed project	\$ 699,200
CA	Maillard Working Forest	Recovered balance from completed project	1,948,750
CT	Whip-Poor-Will Woods	Recovered balance from completed project	1,095,048
HI	Protecting the Path of the Gods	Project failed; landowner withdrew	2,891,000
LA	Clear Creek WMA Phase 1	Project failed	3,500,000
LA	Clear Creek WMA Phase 2	Project failed	1,500,000
NC	East Fork of French Creek Headwaters Phase IV	Landowner sold the parcel of this phase of the project to another buyer	2,002,910
OR	East Moraine Wallowa Lake	Recovered balance from completed project	104,552
UT	Soldier Summit	Recovered balance from completed project	1,156,305

State	Project Name	Reason Funds Recovered	Recovered funds for Reprogramming
VA	New River Headwaters	Recovered balance from completed project	33,280
VT	Groton Forest Legacy Initiative	Recovered balance from completed project	522,904
WA	Dewatto Headwaters Forest Phase II	Recovered balance from completed project	1,500,000
N/A	Administrative Funds	Administrative funds recovered from FY 2014, FY 2016, FY 2018, and FY 2019	1,220,051
Total Reprogramming Request			\$18,174,000

Table 2. FY 2023 priority Forest Legacy projects numbers 14 through 18 proposed for funding using recovered funds.

Priority Rank	State	Project Name	Funding
14	HI	Maunawili Valley Project ^a	\$ 3,605,000
15	AZ	Cochise Stronghold Woodlands Project	1,740,000
16	CO	Higher Ground Headwaters Project	3,000,000
17	MS	Pearl River Conservation Corridor Project	535,000
18	OR	Minam River Phase 2 ^b	9,294,000
Total Reprogramming Request			\$18,174,000

^a Received partial funding for this project in FY 2023 totaling \$1,345,000. The additional \$3,605,000 would fully fund the project at \$4,950,000.

^b Total project request is \$9,755,000.

Approximately \$5 million of the recovered funds are from two projects where the landowners chose not to proceed with the project, and instead, sold the properties to interested parties who offered a higher asking price or were able to move more quickly than the state. An additional \$5 million is from a project (LA-Clear Creek) funded over two years where the state ran into numerous challenges and ultimately chose to withdraw the project and return the grant funds. Just over \$1 million is four (4) years of administrative funds that states returned from administrative grants. The remaining approximately \$7 million is from transactions where the cost of the project was less than anticipated or where the entirety of the anticipated project could not be secured.

The Forest Service appreciates the continued support of Congress for the Forest Legacy Program and looks forward to hearing the Committee's decision.