

**File Code:** 3360**Date:** April 4, 2024**Route To:****Subject:** Fiscal Year 2026 Project Selection Process for the Forest Legacy Program Land and Water Conservation Funds**To:** Regional Foresters and IITF Director**REPLY DUE SEPTEMBER 23, 2024**

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 project selection process for the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) will be competitive, merit-based, and coordinated by the Washington Office. The Forest Legacy Program is funded through annual appropriations from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The outcome from this process will be a ranked and prioritized list of FLP projects for consideration in the President's Budget. This process is aligned with and supports current Administration priorities including Executive Order 14009 *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*; and the challenge that President Biden has proposed for America: Conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

This process is separate from the Inflation Reduction Act funded Forest Legacy (IRA FLP) process, which is outlined in a separate Call Letter and Scoring Guidance document. See the most recent versions of the IRA Call Letter and Scoring Guidance on the [Forest Legacy website](#).

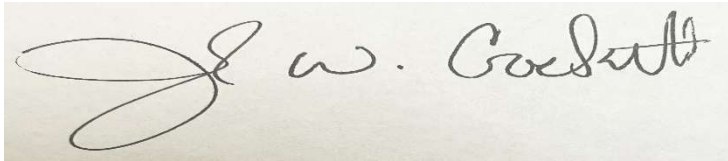
States may submit up to five projects for consideration, with requested federal funding not exceeding \$20 million per state. The enclosed Scoring Guidance (Enclosure 1) provides further details around process steps, deadlines, eligibility requirements, submission limits, and evaluation criteria. The Scoring Guidance also provides guidance to the National Review Panel for scoring and ranking of proposals for funding consideration. Applicants should use these criteria as a guide when developing and submitting project proposals.

Each Region and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (Regions) should notify State Lead Agencies of this process and timeline to ensure all proposed projects are entered into the Forest Legacy Information System by the due dates. The State Lead Agency is responsible for data entry and accuracy. The Region is responsible for reviewing and validating the information for each project and confirming all project requirements have been met.

Regions are also responsible for evaluating the status of each state's compliance with core program requirements, state and amount of outstanding project grants, past performance, and project readiness to inform the National Review ranking process. Regions should use the enclosed State Matrix (Enclosure 2) to summarize this information, and ensure all information provided is accurate and complete.

If you have any questions, please contact [Scott Stewart](#) or [Claire Harper](#), National Forest Legacy Program Managers, at (202) 465-5038 or (303) 895-6157.



A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature reads "John W. Crockett" in a cursive script. The first name "John" is written with a large, stylized 'J' that loops around the 'o'. The middle initial "W." is written with a simple 'w' followed by a period. The last name "Crockett" is written in a fluid cursive style.

JOHN W. CROCKETT

Deputy Chief, State, Private and Tribal Forester

Enclosures (2)

cc: Steven Koehn, Alice Ewen, Scott Stewart, Claire Harper