

## 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Alabama Resource Advisory Committee

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

### 2. Fiscal Year

2024

### 3. Committee or Subcommittee

Alabama Resource Advisory  
Committee

### 3b. GSA Committee

No.

2548

### 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

### 5. Current Charter

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

### 7. Expected Term Date

No

12/19/2023 12/19/2025

### 8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

### 8b. Specific Termination Authority

### 8c. Actual Term Date

### 9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

### 10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

### 10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

SRS and Community

Self-Determination Act as

reauthorized in PL 110-343,  
PL 112-141 and as amended

Agricultural Improvement Act  
of 2018 PL. 115-334.

### 13. Effective Date

### 14. Committee Type

### 14c. Presidential?

10/03/2008 Continuing No

### 15. Description of Committee

Other Committee

### 16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for  
this Fiscal Year

### 17a. Open

### 17b. Closed

### 17c. Partially Closed

### Other Activities

### 17d. Total

### Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

	Current FY	Next FY
<b>18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18c. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Total</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)</b>	0.00	0.00

**20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?**

The purpose of a Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act resource advisory committee is to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service consistent with Division C, Title VI of Public Law 110-343. The Act describes the duties of the committees as follows: to review projects proposed by counties and other interested parties; to recommend projects and funding; to provide early and continuous coordination with Forest Service officials; to provide frequent opportunities for

citizens, organizations, tribes, land management agencies and other interested parties to participate openly and meaningfully, beginning in the early stages of project development; to monitor projects approved under the Act; to advise the designated federal official on the progress of monitoring; and to make recommendations for any appropriate changes or adjustments to projects being monitored.

**20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?**

The committee is comprised of 15 members, five in each of three categories prescribed in the Act. Within each category, the Act identifies specific interests members are to represent. Committees are formed in geographic areas to ensure each national forest located within a participating county or counties has access to a resource advisory committee. The Act requires members to be residents of the state or states within which the committee has jurisdiction.

**20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?**

The committee generally will meet 1-4 times per year as needed to perform its duties, or as often as needed.

**20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?**

The RAC is necessary to improve collaborative relationships among the people that use and care for the National Forests and to provide advice and recommendations to the Forest Service concerning projects and funding consistent with Title II of the Act.

**20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or**

## **partially closed committee meetings?**

Meetings are open to the public with an opportunity to provide comments..

## **21. Remarks**

The Alabama Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) did have activity during FY 2023. RAC met on September 21 to review four project proposals. The Forest Supervisor approved the following projects that were RAC recommended and will receive Title II funding: 1. Project Name: Bankhead Improvement Project - (Winston County) #00041 Recommended Amount: \$140,000 2. Project Name: Bankhead Improvement and Trail Program (Lawrence County) #00042 Recommended Amount: \$103,000 3. Project Name: Trails of the Talladega NF (Clay and Talladega Counties) #0003 Recommended Amount: \$38,000 4. Project Name: Trails and Watersheds of the Bankhead NF and Sipse Wilderness (Winston and Lawrence Counties) #0004 Recommended Amount: \$31,560

## **Designated Federal Officer**

Tammy Freeman Brown Public Affairs Staff Officer

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Benefield, Matt	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Senior Quality Engineer	Representative Member
Brannon, Zachery	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	County Extension Coordinator	Representative Member
Farid, Rashidah	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Wildlife Ecologist	Representative Member
Gauldin, W.	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Wildlife Section Chief	Representative Member
Henshaw, Michael	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Retired	Representative Member
Hudson, Cedric	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Perry County Commissioner	Representative Member
Jones, Tina	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Professor/Dean Educational Outreach	Representative Member
Keener, Brian	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Associate Professor	Representative Member

Mathews, Debby	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	County Extension Coordinator	Representative Member
Miranda, Lauranisa	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Executive Director - University of Alabama Center for Economic Development	Representative Member
Nalty Jr., Frank	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Private Forest Landowner	Representative Member
Newton, Steven	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Mechanical Engineer	Representative Member
Quinn, Debra	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Chairman - Alabama Trails Commission	Representative Member
Simmons-Raney, Renee	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	State Park Superintendent	Representative Member
Tassin, Keith	05/07/2021	05/06/2025	Director - Terrestrial Conservation, The Nature Conservancy	Representative Member

## Number of Committee Members Listed: 15

### Narrative Description

By recommending projects that maintain and improve the health of national forest ecosystems and improve cooperative relationships among the people who use and care for the national forests, the Secure Rural Schools resource advisory committees support the Forest Service mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The committees specifically support Forest Service strategic goals to 1. Restore, sustain, and enhance the national forests; and 2. Provide and sustain benefits to the American people.

### What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if  
Applies

Improvements to health or safety

☐

Trust in government

☒

Major policy changes

☐

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Advance in scientific research                    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Effective grant making                            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery                         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Increased customer satisfaction                   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other   | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Outcome Comments**

Not Applicable.

**What are the cost savings associated with this committee?**

Checked if Applies

- |                            |                                     |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| None                       | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Unable to Determine        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Under \$100,000            | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$100,000 - \$500,000      | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$500,001 - \$1,000,000    | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000  | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| \$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000 | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Over \$10,000,000          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| Cost Savings Other         | <input type="checkbox"/>            |

**Cost Savings Comments**

Not applicable.

**What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?**

9

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

To date, during the life of the committee, there's a total of 9 recommended projects the Forest Supervisor has approved.

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?**

100%

### **% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments**

On September 23, 2023, the Forest Supervisor approved 4 RAC recommended projects with funds fully obligated. The RAC's recommendation letter stated 4 project proposals will share \$312,560 of Title II funding. The project proposals are aimed to improve roads and trails in the Bankhead and Talladega National Forests. Bankhead District Ranger, Andy Scott and Talladega Acting District Ranger, Jeffery Kincaid fully support the projects. Fiscal Year 2023 - (4) Approved Project Proposals 1. Bankhead Improvement Project – (Winston County) #00041 - \$140,000 2. Bankhead Improvement and Trail Program (Lawrence County) #00042 - \$103,000 3. Trails of the Talladega NF (Clay and Talladega Counties) #0003 - \$38,000 4. Trails and Watersheds of the Bankhead NF and Sipsey Wilderness (Winston and Lawrence Counties) #0004 - \$31,560

**What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?**

0%

### **% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments**

All recommendations are fully implemented.

**Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?**

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

The Forest Service (FS) Designated Federal Official regularly reports to the committee on whether recommended projects proposals are or are not approved by the FS. The DFO also reports on actions taken to implement approved projects. This may take the form of verbal reports and presentations at committee meetings, committee field trips and monitoring activities.

**What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?**

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Action Comments

**Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?**

No

## Grant Review Comments

**How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?**

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Access Comments