

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Forestry Research Advisory Council

Report Run Date: 07/05/2025 07:32:51 PM

1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Forestry Research Advisory
Council

**3b. GSA Committee
No.**

1282

| 4. Is this New During Fiscal Year? | 5. Current Charter | 6. Expected Renewal Date | 7. Expected Term Date |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|

| | | | |
|----|------------|------------|--|
| No | 08/26/2024 | 08/26/2026 | |
|----|------------|------------|--|

**8a. Was Terminated During
FiscalYear?**

No

**8b. Specific
Termination
Authority**

**8c. Actual
Term Date**

**9. Agency
Recommendation for Next
FiscalYear**

Continue

**10a. Legislation
Req to Terminate?**

Not Applicable

**10b.
Legislation
Pending?**

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Statutory (Congress Created)

**12. Specific
Establishment
Authority**

16 U.S.C. 582a-4

**13.
Effective
Date**

10/10/1962

**14.
Committee
Type**

Continuing

**14c.
Presidential?**

No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory
Board

**16a. Total
Number of
Reports**

No Reports for
this FiscalYear

| 17a. Open | 17b. Closed | 17c. Partially Closed | Other Activities | 17d. Total |
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
|----------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

| Current FY | Next FY |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
|-----------------------|--------------------|

| | | |
|--|--------|--------|
| 18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category) | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 18e. Total Costs | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| 19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE) | 0.00 | 0.00 |

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Council is required by the Act to provide advice to the Secretary of Agriculture on accomplishing efficiently the purposes of the Act of October 10, 1962 (16 U.S.C. 582a, et seq.), commonly known as the McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962. The Council also provides advice related to the Forest Service research program, authorized by the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 (Pub. L. No.

95-307, 92 Stat. 353, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1600 (note)). The Council will report to the Secretary of Agriculture on regional and national planning and coordination of forestry research within the Federal and State agencies concerned with developing and utilizing the nation's forest resources, forestry schools, and the forest industries. The Council shall also advise the Secretary of Agriculture on the apportionment of funds for the McIntire-Stennis Program.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The Council is comprised of 20 voting members appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and drawn from state and federal government organizations, academic institutions (forestry schools), volunteer and non-governmental organizations, and forest industries.

Representation from these organizations will ensure a wide variety of viewpoints on issues and priorities related to forestry research and natural resource research and management matters across the United States. To ensure that the recommendations of the Committee have taken into account the needs of the diverse groups served by USDA, membership includes to the extent possible, individuals with demonstrated ability to represent minorities, women and persons with disabilities.

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

The Council shall meet annually but may meet as often as is necessary to complete its business. The timing of the meetings is crucial to providing timely advice to the Secretary of Agriculture, particularly as related to budget. Meetings with such a diverse group of members are relevant in

providing perspectives that permeate a broad range of forestry research priorities and coordinate USDA work with the forestry research programs in academic institutions, industry, and other federal and state agencies.

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

The Council is the only entity which is authorized by law to provide the Secretary of Agriculture with recommendations and advice on forestry research. The increases in worldwide demand for wood, biofuel and fiber, coupled with increasing national and global concerns for the health of forest ecosystems, and increased numbers and magnitude of fires, is causing unprecedented conflicts over allocation, use, and management of the nation's forests.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

All Council meetings are open to the public and are advertised at least 15 days in advance in the Federal Register.

21. Remarks

The committee conducted a formal meeting in FY24, but the members did not finalize recommendations before the charter expired. We are currently waiting for the charter to be renewed.

Designated Federal Officer

David Lytle Deputy Chief for R&D

| Committee Members | Start | End | Occupation | Member Designation |
|-------------------|------------|------------|---|-----------------------|
| Bartuska, Ann | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Senior Advisor, Resources for the Future | Representative Member |
| Cavender, Nicole | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Director of Botanical Gardens, The Huntington | Representative Member |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|------------|--|--------------------------|
| Cheung, Kevin | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Chief Engineer, Western Wood Products Association | Representative Member |
| Cooper, Hilary | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Director of Innovative Funding for Housing Programs, Colorado OEDIT | Representative Member |
| Daley, James | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | President and CEO, American Forests | Representative Member |
| Finkral, Alex | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | President and CEO, Eastwood Forests, LLC | Representative Member |
| Floyd, Myron | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Dean, College of Natural Resources, NC State University | Representative Member |
| Gan, Jianbang (Jim) | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Professor, Department of Ecology and Conservation Biology, Texas A&M University | Representative Member |
| Goergen, Michael | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Vice President for Innovation and Director, P3Nano | Representative Member |
| Holter, Lance | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Owner, Lance Holter Real Estate and Construction | Representative Member |
| Jean-Philippe, Sharon | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Associate Professor, University of Tennessee, Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries | Representative Member |
| Jose, Shibu | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Associate Dean for Research, University of Missouri | Representative Member |
| Lear, Monica | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Associate Chief Financial Officer, USDA | Representative Member |
| Leighton, Adrian | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Dean, Division of Sciences, Director, Center for Tribal Research and Education in Ecosystem Sciences, Salish Kootenai College | Representative Member |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|--|--------------------------|
| McCullough, Deborah | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Professor, Departments of Entomology and Forestry, Michigan State University National Science Liaison, | Representative Member |
| Norland, Eric | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Environment and Natural Resources, USDA NIFA Founding | Representative Member |
| Ramsay, Shannon | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | President and CEO, Trees Forever, Inc. Forestry and | Representative Member |
| Smith, David | 11/30/2022 | 11/30/2025 | Wildlife Administrator, State of Hawaii Emeritus Professor of Tree & Forest | Representative Member |
| Stanosz, Glen | 11/30/2022 | 10/02/2024 | Health, University of Wisconsin-Madison | Representative Member |

Number of Committee Members Listed: 19

Narrative Description

The Council's 2017 Report to the Secretary of Agriculture included recommendations Enhance USDA extramural and university research capacities in forestry. (1) The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) should utilize its higher education competitive grant programs to provide graduate student fellowships in forest science disciplines with critical shortages. (2) Funding for the McIntire-Stennis program be increased to \$50 million per year to train a diverse cadre of scientists that will respond to expanding threats to the nation's forests. (3) Amending the McIntire-Stennis legislation to include the 1994 land grant colleges should be a priority for the next Farm Bill. Expand Forest Service (USFS) Research and Development (R&D) capacity and funding: (4) Work with Congress to adopt alternative wildfire funding mechanisms and end the use of the ten-year rolling average to drive fire budgeting and end fire borrowing. (5) Restore USFS contributions to Joint Fire Science Program and return the JFSP line item to Wildfire Management. (6) Increase USFS R&D budget to no less than 10% of the total agency's budget by FY2020, to meet urgent needs, e.g., climate change, ecological integrity, insects and

disease through expanded research capacity. (7) Invest in social science research beyond rural sociology and economics to better understand how forests address human needs and values. (8) Continue research on forest products and technology that enhances energy efficiency, carbon sequestration, and community and rural vitality. (9) Move quickly to fill the many open R&D executive and national program lead positions. This was the last report that was submitted the the Secretary. The charter was re-established in FY2022 and members were selected and appointed in FY2023. We held an in-person meeting with the Committee in early FY2024, but the charter expired before the Committee was able to finalize recommendations.

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

Checked if
Applies

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| Improvements to health or safety | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Trust in government | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Major policy changes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Advance in scientific research | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective grant making | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Improved service delivery | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Increased customer satisfaction | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Outcome Comments

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
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000
Over \$10,000,000
Cost Savings Other

☐
☐
☐
☐

Cost Savings Comments

The Council did not make estimates on how much savings will be generated with resulting increase in efficiency and effectiveness of program management.

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

22

Number of Recommendations Comments

1 meeting in FY24. The Committee met in FY24, but did not finalize recommendations before the charter expired. Since the Committee was established in 1962, we do not have accurate information for total number recommendations to date: Total number of recommendations for the life of committee being reported now, starts with FY2014.

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

23%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

5 recommendations have been completed.

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

77%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

17 or more recommendations are in progress.

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

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Forest Service and NIFA representatives provide briefings on status of implementation at

each FRAC meeting, and intermediate updates as appropriate.

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 checked="" 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