

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: Collaborative Forest Restoration Program Technical Advisory Panel

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

2. Fiscal Year

2024

3b. GSA

Committee

No.

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Collaborative Forest Restoration Program

Technical Advisory Panel

10760

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

09/13/2019 09/13/2021

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

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

Omnibus Public Land

Management Act of 2009

(Pub. L. No. 111-11, Title IV,
§ 4003, 123 Stat. 1141;

codified as amended at 16

U.S.C. § 7303)

13. Effective Date

10/30/2000 Continuing No

14. Committee Type

14c. Presidential?

15. Description of Committee

Grant Review Committee

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for
this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

0 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 0

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. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The scope and objectives are to evaluate proposals for forest restoration grants and provide recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture regarding which proposals best meet the objectives of the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP). The duties and responsibilities of the Panel are to consider the proposed projects' effects on long-term management and provide recommendations regarding which proposals best

meet the following objectives pursuant to section 605 of the Act: reduce the threat of large, high-intensity wildfires; reestablish fire regimes; preserve old and large trees; replant trees in deforested areas; improve the use of small diameter trees; comply with federal and state environmental laws; include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders; incorporate current scientific forest restoration information; create a plan for reporting, upon project completion, on the positive or negative impact and effectiveness of each project including improvements in local management skills and on-the-ground results; create local employment or training opportunities.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

Specific agencies, organizations and interests represented on the Panel are as follows: a state natural resources official from the state of New Mexico; at least two representatives from federal land management agencies; at least one tribal or pueblo representative; at least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration; and equal representation from conservation interests, local communities and commodity interests.

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

Estimated Number of Meetings per Year: 1-3.
Estimated Total Meetings: 3-6. The Panel reviews grant applications and prepares a report for the Secretary prioritizing the applications for funding based on the degree to which they meet the program objectives in three categories: utilization; planning; and implementation. The Panel also assigns a subcommittee for the task of reviewing

multi-party assessments from completed Collaborative Forest Restoration Program projects to identify lessons learned that would inform and improve the Panel's proposal review process.

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

This committee is essential because designing forest and watershed restoration projects using a collaborative approach reduces conflict and facilitates cross jurisdictional planning and project implementation consistent with the Secretaries all lands approach. Cost-effective projects that improve the utilization of small diameter trees from restoration activities creates local jobs and the private sector capacity that is critical to accomplishing forest restoration at a landscape scale. Collaborative restoration projects empower diverse organizations to implement activities which value local and traditional knowledge; build ownership and civic pride; and ensure healthy, diverse, and productive forests and watersheds. Advice of the committee is not available from other sources because only such a committee can provide an environment where interest groups that have a stake in forest management issues can work towards agreement on how forest restoration should occur on public land in New Mexico, with the grant proposals as the focus of the discussion. The grants fund diverse and balanced groups of stakeholders that work collaboratively with Federal, Tribal, State, County, and Municipal governments to plan, implement, and monitor forest restoration projects on public land in New Mexico.

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

All meetings are open to the public.

21. Remarks

This program has not convened since Sept. 2020 due to the program not receiving national funding. In fact, the Region has not received CFRP funding since 2015. At that time the Region decided to procure a Sustainability Assessment report to develop recommendations how to proceed with the program. Until then the Region wants the program to go into "administratively inactive"

Designated Federal Officer

Ian Russell Fox Deputy Director Forestry, Forest Health, and Cooperative Forestry

Narrative Description

The Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Technical Advisory Panel evaluates grant proposals for forest restoration projects on public forestland that include a diverse and balanced group of stakeholders. The Panel uses a consensus-based process to develop recommendations for the Secretary on which proposals best meet the objectives of the Program. The Panel provides a venue for key stakeholders with an interest in forest restoration and small diameter tree utilization to develop agreement on how to accomplish those tasks on public forestland. The Panel improves communication and joint problem solving among individuals and groups who are interested in restoring the diversity and productivity of forested watersheds in New Mexico and encourages sustainable communities and sustainable forest through collaborative partnerships. This effort supports the agency mission to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests to meet the needs of present and future generations.

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

Checked if
Applies

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

Outcome Comments

NA

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

NA

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

228

Number of Recommendations Comments

The Panel did not make any recommendations in FY22. Since 2001, the CFRP Technical Advisory Panel has reviewed 563 proposals and recommended funding for 228 project grants totaling \$74 million to Tribes, businesses, NGOs, schools and universities, and state and local governments.

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

Since 2001 the Secretary of Agriculture has approved all of the committee's funding recommendations. On June 26, 2018 the Southwestern Regional Forester submitted the 2018 CFRP Panel project funding recommendations to the Forest Service Washington Office for transmittal to the Secretary. The Secretary approved those recommendations on August 21, 2018.

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

Panel recommendations were sent to the Secretary and were approved on Jan 11, 2021. Regional Grants and Agreements Specialists are working with FS staff to award agreements.

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 Chairman and DFO begin each Panel meeting with a briefing on program accomplishments. Panel members also attend an annual workshop with grant recipients to discuss accomplishments and lessons learned from project implementation. A Subcommittee reviews multi-party assessment reports from completed projects and provides recommendations to the Panel on what those reports indicate about past projects that could inform the evaluation of future project proposals.

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

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities

☐

Reallocated resources

☐

Issued new regulation

☐

Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

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