

# 2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

Report Run Date: 04/19/2024 10:55:56 AM

## 1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

## 2. Fiscal Year

2024

## 3. Committee or Subcommittee

National Urban and Community Forestry  
Advisory Council

## 3b. GSA

## Committee No.

1306

## 4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

## 5. Current Charter

06/02/2022

## 6. Expected Renewal Date

06/02/2024

## 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

## 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. 2105, AMEND. 10/28/1990

## 13. Effective Date

Continuing

## 14. Committee Type

No

## 14c. Presidential?

No

## 15. Description of 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 Next  
FY 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?**

Currently the Council Charter has been renewed and the nomination package of the full Council members is pending WHLO review and submission to the Secretary for his appointment. The Council's meetings focus on their legislatively mandated duties by developing the categories for the Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Program (CCS) and recommending proposals to the Forest Service to consider in making their award decision; developing the Annual Accomplishment/Recommendation Report to the Secretary of Agriculture, finalizing their work plan and assignments targeting goals in the public's National Ten-Year Urban and Community Forestry



Action Plan, (Action Plan), and considerable listening and discussion with the public on emerging issues/opportunities in urban and community forestry. Council members attend the National Partners in Community Forestry Conference and during this time may hold a public meeting and/or use that time to meet with the groups the represent on the Council, other Federal Agencies, and entities working in community and urban forestry. The Council incorporates the public's feedback into their work plan and validate them in the accomplishment/recommendation report and grant categories. The Council has a home page on the Forest Service website <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac.shtml> The site contains background information, grant announcements about the Council as well as their accomplishment reports and recommendations.

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

The Council is made up of 15 members whose positions are described very specifically in the enabling legislation, membership consists of qualified candidates representing: State government; County government; City/Town government; forest products, nursery, or related industries; urban forestry, landscape, and design consultants; State forestry agencies or equivalent State agencies; professional renewable natural resource or arboricultural society; Extension Service; USDA Forest Service; a non-officer or employee of any governmental body representing a population of less than 50,000 as of the most recent census who has expertise and has been active in urban and community forestry; non-officer or employee of any government body representing a population of more than 50,000 as of the most recent census who has expertise and



has been active in urban and community forestry; two members representing national non-profit forestry and conservation citizen organizations; and two members from academic institutions with an expertise in urban and community forestry activities. The Council positions are also balanced geographically and demographically to reflect comprehensive viewpoints from around the country and the country's diverse populations.

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

The Council Charter has recently been Renewed and the call for nominations has been closed and we are compiling the nomination package for review and approval. The Council meets about three times annually with at least one meeting held face to face. In general, the Council strategically plans future meetings with other related urban forestry stakeholders and the public to address items in the Action Plan and emerging urban forestry issues and opportunities. The Council reduces its meeting costs by: reducing the face to face meetings, reducing the meeting days from three to one and one half days; and using Federal meeting space or meeting space at reduced costs. The Council continues to steward accomplishments identified in the public's Action Plan, and continues to implement their Strategic Plan. Any Council recommendations are addressed by the Forest Service.

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

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council (Council) has diverse representation of experts across the country and its territories that come together in one space to advise about urban and community forests, urban



natural resources and green infrastructure that provide nature based solutions for economic, environmental, and health and well-being for all communities. The Council continues to provide input that will focus and coordinate current and future efforts with the Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry Program, USDA, and applicable Federal agencies, which builds community sustainability and resiliency through proper management of this critical green infrastructure.

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

All meetings are open to the public, unless closed to discuss grant proposal proprietary information or onboarding new members for administrative information and Ethics training .

## **21. Remarks**

Committee did not meet in FY 23.

## **Designated Federal Officer**

Nancy Stremple National Urban Forestry Program Manager

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>End</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Member Designation</b>
Armjiro, David	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Hispanic Access 501C3	Representative Member
Brodbeck, Arnold "Beau"	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Extension Specialist, Auburn University	Representative Member
Cole, Denise	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Academic Administrator Urban Forestry	Representative Member
Crockett, John	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Forest Service Associate Deputy Chief State, Private, and Tribal Forestry	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Dowtin, Asia	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Michigan State University	Representative Member
Eutsler, Earl	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	State Forester, Government of the District of Columbia	Representative Member



Firehock, Karen	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Green Infrastructure Center 501C3	Representative Member
Jogerst, Casey	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	City of Portland	Representative Member
Johnson, Paul	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Senior Director, Urban and Community Forestry, Sustainable Forestry Initiative Professor, Department Chair, and ANSWERS Institute Director,	Representative Member
Ning, Zhu	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Southern University, Department of Urban Forestry, Environment, and Natural Resources, Urban forestry Consultant / Owner and Founder/Exec Director Nevada	Representative Member
Ortega, Lisa	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Plants. Adjunct faculty / UNLV, Arid Lands Horticulture Consulting. / Nevada Plants / UNLV Morton Arboretum	Representative Member
Pierce, Trinity	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Outreach/Stewardship Coordinator	Representative Member
Shandas, Vivek	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	CAPA Strategies	Representative Member
Suzukovich, Eli	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	Northwestern University: Professor in the Environmental Policy and Culture Program.	Representative Member
Wollack, Leslie	09/18/2023	12/31/2026	National Association of Regional Councils County/City	Representative Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 15**

### **Narrative Description**

NUCFAC is a congressionally designated advisory council to the Secretary of Agriculture on urban forestry and related issues. NUCFAC synthesizes the full spectrum of views into a consistent vision as a foundation for practical policy. The Council works in partnership with the USDA Forests Service's Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program, a cooperative program of the USDA Forest Service that focuses on the stewardship of natural



resources where more than 80% of Americans live from small rural communities to metropolitan areas. Working with the state forestry agencies, the UCF program provides technical, financial, research and educational services to local government, nonprofit organizations, community groups, educational institutions, and tribal governments. In FY2018, the UCF program served more than 200,000,000 Americans in more than 7,800 communities of all sizes across the United States, about a third of which were rural communities. UCF funds are leveraged at least 2:1, often exceeding this ratio, by state forestry agencies and other partners. By synthesizing stakeholder views, the Council assists the USDA Forest Service in ensuring the UCF program is delivered efficiently effectively and with integrity and focus on customer service (Strategic Goal 1). In addition, by stewarding the Public's National Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan and recommending workforce, economic development, and applied research projects for funding through the Forest Service's National Urban Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant program, NUCFAC is helping to facilitate rural prosperity and economic development (Strategic Goal 4), and strengthening the stewardship of private lands through technology and research (Strategic Goal 5).

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

**Outcome Comments**



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

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input checked="" 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**

Council members serve without compensation for their time. In FY 2018, the non-Federal members contributed over 2000 hours in volunteer hours due to stewarding and implementing portions of the National Ten Year Urban Forestry Action Plan. This is equivalent to 1.25 FTE's valued at \$188,856, based on volunteer time prior to the Charter expiring.

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

236

**Number of Recommendations Comments**

Since 1993 the Council has made over 236 program and National Forest Service Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program recommendations. Grants funded urban and community forestry projects, studies, research, and best management practices. This successful grant program leverages Federal taxpayers' dollars on an average of 3:1, building a community's economic resilience through its natural resource stewardship. The Council grant recommendations address the goals and objectives in the 2016-2026 National Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action Plan. Prior to the Council's Charter expiring, they submitted their recommendations for the FY 2019 National Urban and Community Challenge Cost Share Grant Program. The Forest Service accepted the Council's recommendation and the Secretary approved the Forest Service's decision. The committee did not meet in FY19.

**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**

The Secretary and agency approve the grants recommended by the Council. Some of the recommendations may take the agency several years to fully address.

### **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**

Some of the recommendations are more appropriate to be addressed by partner organizations/industries rather than the federal government and have been addressed.

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

Yes ☐ No ☒ Not Applicable ☐

### **Agency Feedback Comments**

2019 Grant Recommendations: The Council's grant recommendations were submitted before the Council's Charter Expired in FY 2018. The Forest Service accepted the Council's recommendation, the Secretary approved the FS decision. The FS funded the 2019 grants with the amount of funds available. The Council's grant category focus reflects the Forest Service's and Departments priorities. In 2017, the Agency funded an analysis looking at the impact of past NUCFAC grants, giving the Council feedback into the implementation of their previously selected grants.

### **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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

### **Action Comments**

The Council recognizes the need to develop more green jobs especially for



disadvantaged / underserved populations and supply industry demand. The Council's past recommendations include assessing and building a green industry workforce. One example of the Forest Service's response to this recommendation is to compile and assess the Council recommended grant findings for this topic and present the findings to industry, academia, and stakeholders. The Forest Service's findings identifying the disconnect between industry hiring and student urban forestry and natural resources educational curriculum were presented to UCF stakeholders as a primer for a round table discussion. As a result, the Forest Service and industry partners are currently developing strategies to address these findings by reevaluating existing educational curriculum and exploring new training/ apprentice opportunities that will address the workforce needs, create more job opportunities, and build capacity for rural and underserved communities.

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

Yes

What is the estimated Number of grants reviewed for approval 0

What is the estimated Number of grants recommended for approval 0

What is the estimated Dollar Value of grants recommended for approval \$0

**Grant Review Comments**

This successful grant program leverages Federal taxpayers' dollars on an average of 3:1, building a community's economic resilience through its natural resource stewardship.

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**Access Comments**

Information access, such as, Calls for Nominations, request for grant proposals, and general Council information is transferred either through the Federal Register Notices, hard copy or electronic mail-outs and/or at Grants.gov.