

## 2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council

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### 1. Department or Agency

Department of Agriculture

### 2. Fiscal Year

2025

### 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

10/31/2024

### 6. Expected Renewal Date

10/31/2026

### 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?

Enacted

### 11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

### 12. Specific Establishment Authority

16 U.S.C. 2105, AMEND. 10/28/1990

### 13. Effective Date

### 14. Committee Type

Continuing

### 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. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)</b>	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>18e. Total Costs</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's reestablished Charter is pending renewal. The renewal date of June 2, 2024 has passed and the Charter expired during its renewal package being reviewed in the Department. The renewal package is currently in the Department under review and pending the Secretary's signature. The Council members were active prior to the June 2, 2024 expiration date and were able to meet for the first time and set

direction for their next activities. The diverse national Council will pick up their activities once the Charter is signed. The Council's meetings focus on their legislatively mandated duties: to develop consecutive National Ten Year Urban and Community Forestry Action plans (Action Plan) that they develop in conjunction with the public's input, develop grant categories based on the Action Plan's goals for the Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Program (CCS) grant program. This includes recommending proposals to the Forest Service to consider in making their grant award decision; and developing the Annual Accomplishment/Recommendation Report on the implementation of the Action Plan to the Secretary of Agriculture. Meetings include 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 they 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. National Census data is used to demographically balance the Council. Member positions are staggered. A Nomination package will identify weak demographic representation on the Council and utilize its outreach pool of candidates, reference its outreach plan the recommendations in the Civil Rights Impact Analysis CRIA recommendations for additional outreach as applicable.

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

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 and demographics 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. This collective knowledge provides nature-based solutions for economic, environmental, and health and well-being for all communities. The Council continues to provide input that focuses and coordinates current and future efforts with the Forest Service's National Urban and Community Forestry Program, USDA, and applicable Federal agencies. This 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 met 2/2024 in-person and virtually.

## Designated Federal Officer

Nancy Stremple National Urban Forestry Program Manager

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Armjiro, David	09/18/2023	09/17/2026	Hispanic Access 501C3	Representative Member
Cole, Denise	09/18/2023	09/17/2025	Academic Administrator Urban Forestry	Representative Member
Dowtin, Asia	09/18/2023	09/17/2026	Michigan State University	Representative Member
Firehock, Karen	09/18/2023	09/17/2025	Green Infrastructure Center 501C3	Representative Member
Jogerst, Casey	09/18/2023	09/17/2025	City of Portland	Representative Member
Johnson, Paul	09/18/2023	09/17/2025	Senior Director, Urban and Community Forestry, Sustainable Forestry Initiative Professor, Department Chair, and ANSWERS Institute Director,	Representative Member
Ning, Zhu	09/18/2023	09/17/2025	Southern University, Department of Urban Forestry, Environment, and Natural Resources, Urban forestry Consultant / Owner and Founder/Exec Director Nevada Plants. Adjunct faculty / UNLV, Arid Lands Horticulture Consulting. / Nevada Plants / UNLV	Representative Member
Ortega, Lisa	09/18/2023	09/17/2026		Representative Member
Shandas, Vivek	09/18/2023	09/17/2026	CAPA Strategies	Representative Member

Wollack,  
Leslie

09/18/2023 09/17/2026

National  
Association of  
Regional Councils  
County/City  
Representative  
Member

**Number of Committee Members Listed: 10**

### **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 FY2023, the UCF program served more than 276,000,000 Americans in more than 7,000 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.

### 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 between 2019-2023. Council recommendations are pending for FY2024, due to the Charter expiring on June 2, 2024. Once the Charter is signed they will continue developing their recommendations that may roll over to the following FY 2025.

**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**

236 fully implemented.

**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**

0 partially 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**

2024 Grant Recommendations: The Grant process was already started and continued as approved in the past as a Forest Service Action when the Council was in active. A Council representative was on the review panel to oversee that the Council's intent was being met for the Ten-Year Action Plan. There were no Council grant recommendations for FY24. Grant awarded did address Goal 4 and 5 or the Council's Action Plan.

**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. At the February 2024 Council meeting the Council is not seeing much progress in this area for an innovative sustainable career ladder workforce development and suggested to develop a National Urban and Community Challenge Cost Share Grant Category to move this effort forward in disadvantaged communities. The Forest Service was asked to develop a draft category for them to review and vote on at the next public meeting.

### 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. This Year Council was not active in time to recommend the category or grant proposals for the

FS to consider when making their decision.

**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.