

File Code: 3360
Route To:

Date: June 29, 2023

Subject: Fiscal Year 2024 Project Selection Process for the Forest Legacy Program
Inflation Reduction Act Project Funds

To: Regional Foresters and IITF Director

REPLIES DUE DECEMBER 11, 2023, AND MAY 20, 2024

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 project selection process for Inflation Reduction Act funding to the Forest Legacy Program (IRA FLP) will be competitive, merit-based, and coordinated by the Washington Office. This process is aligned with and supports current Administration priorities including Executive Order 14009 *Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad*; and the goal that President Biden has proposed for America: Conserving 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

The IRA project selection process will run in conjunction with the Forest Legacy Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) funding proposal annual process. See LWCF reply due letter issued April 21, 2023, on the [Forest Legacy website](#). IRA funding will be directed to project types that complement the LWCF funding opportunity while still meeting the same program eligibility and core criteria requirements.

In FY 2024, there will be two submission and review processes for IRA funding consideration—one round in the winter (December 11, 2023, national deadline), and one round in the summer (May 20, 2024 national deadline). The outcome from each round will be three ranked and prioritized lists (one list for each project type):

1. Large Landscape Projects,
2. State-Tribal Partnership Projects,
3. Strategic Small-Tract Projects.

States can submit up to five projects for consideration in each funding round. The enclosed Scoring Guidance (Enclosure 1) provides further details around process steps, eligibility requirements, submission limits, and evaluation criteria.

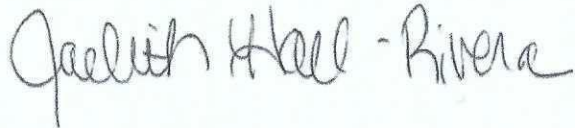
Each Region and the International Institute of Tropical Forestry (Regions) should notify State Lead Agencies of this process and timeline to ensure all proposed projects are entered into the Forest Legacy Information System by the due dates. The State Lead Agency is responsible for data entry and accuracy. The Region is responsible for reviewing and validating the information for each project and confirming all project requirements have been met.

Regions are also responsible for evaluating the status of each state's compliance with core program requirements, status and amount of outstanding project grants, past performance, and project readiness to inform the National Review ranking process. Regions should use the enclosed State Matrix (Enclosure 2) to summarize this information, and ensure all information provided is accurate and complete.



We plan to award \$250 million in IRA funding in FY2024 in accordance with the agency's current IRA spend plan. Actual funding awarded (greater or less than \$250 million) will depend on the number of eligible and high-quality proposals received. Additional funding opportunities will be offered on an annual basis through 2026, with the goal of awarding all IRA FLP funds by FY2027.

If you have any questions, please contact Scott Stewart, National Forest Legacy Program Manager, at (202) 465-5038.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jaelith Hall-Rivera". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JAE LITH HALL-RIVERA

Deputy Chief, State, Private, and Tribal Forestry

Enclosures (2)

cc: Steven Koehn, Alice Ewen, Scott Stewart, Claire Harper