



Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership Act of 2021

Section-by-Section

Section 1: Title

Section 2: Program Details

- a. Definitions: Defines a number of terms important to the program, including defining “Chiefs” as the Chief of the Forest Service and the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); “eligible activities” as activities that reduce the risk of wildfire, protect water quality and supply, and improve wildlife habitat for at-risk species; and “wildland-urban interface” as defined in the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003.
- b. Establishment and Administration: Requires the Secretary to establish the Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership program to improve the health and resilience of forest landscapes across National Forest System land and Tribal, state, and private land. Directs USDA to implement eligible activities on National Forest System land and work with landowners and/or producers to implement eligible activities on their lands.
- c. Selection of Eligible Activities: Requires the appropriate Regional Forester and State Conservationist to jointly submit proposals to the Chiefs for consideration.
- d. Evaluation Criteria: Requires the Chiefs to prioritize proposals that: reduce wildfire risk in municipal watersheds or the wildland-urban interface; are developed through a collaborative process; increase forest workforce capacity or forest business; leverage existing authorities and non-federal funding sources; provide measurable outcomes; and support state and regional priorities.
- e. Outreach: Requires the Secretary to provide information about the program on USDA websites and share information with Tribes, states, local governments, and landowners, including project solicitation and selection criteria.
- f. Exclusions: Clarifies that activities cannot be carried out in wilderness areas, inventoried roadless areas, on federal land where vegetation removal is prohibited, or where such activities are inconsistent with the applicable land and resource management plan.
- g. Accountability: Requires the Secretary to provide Congress a report on the program with additional recommendations to improve project delivery, and requires annual reports to Congress describing the status and outcomes of funded projects.
- h. Funding: Authorizes \$90 million annually through FY2030. Of these funds, at least 40 percent are available to the NRCS and at least 40 percent are available to the U.S. Forest Service. The USFS or NRCS can use the remaining 20 percent in a flexible manner, including for technical assistance, project planning, and local capacity building.