



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

National Partnership Office (NPO)

Overview

- **Builds partnership capacity and creates a culture of innovation** across the agency
- **Cultivates national level partnerships** to service the whole agency
- **Develops relationships with communities** to increase access to job training and work experiences in natural resources

OUR OBJECTIVES

Share
partnership
guidance

Encourage a
culture of
partnerships

Provide
project
support

Strive for
innovative
partnerships

OUR VALUES

Trust

Customer service

Continuous improvement

Focus on excellence

Innovation

OUR TEAMS

PARTNERSHIP INNOVATION & AGENCY-WIDE SUPPORT HUB



- Carbon Partnership Program
- Conservation Finance
- Partnership Support Team

CARBON PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM (CPP)

- Brings together private donors and USDA Forest Service land management projects designed to have a net carbon benefit.
- Partners receive acknowledgment of their contribution to carbon reduction on public land.
- Examples of potential project types include: reforestation, avoided wildfire emissions projects, biochar, methane emission reduction, and soil carbon retention.



CONSERVATION FINANCE (CF)

- Leverages capital beyond appropriations for priority projects through innovative funding and financing.
 - In FY23, CF obligated more than \$18 million.
- CF partners bring financial and scientific expertise, as well as capacity, to set up public-private partnerships that leverage external funds for FS priorities.



PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT TEAM (PST)

- Works closely with stakeholders to ensure continued growth within our partnership program through training, education, forest-level engagement, and agency-wide support for partnerships.
- In FY23, the PST reached over 800 employees through its trainings and webinars. The team also developed strategic partnerships to seed further partner opportunities.



CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES AND LIAISON PROGRAMS



- Secure Rural Schools
- Congressional Priorities

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS (SRS)

- Provides critical funding to 700 counties across the United States and Puerto Rico; the NPO coordinates approximately \$270 million of Federal financial assistance for schools, roads, and municipal services.
- In FY23, the team created a story map of projects that have been completed using Title II funds.



CONGRESSIONAL PRIORITIES

- FY23/24 Priorities
 - Wildfire Crisis Strategy
 - Executed the National Forest Foundation's Master Stewardship Agreement and helped more than \$200 million in Washington Office funds through **seven national keystone agreements** that fund work to improve infrastructure, reduce hazardous fuels, and improve forest, watershed, and habitat conditions.
 - NFS Infrastructure Coordination
 - Created a strong landscape scale restoration coalition between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Defense (DoD), and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) called **America the Beautiful Challenge**.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS HUB (WDP)



- Student and Emerging Professional Programs
- Corps Operations

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS SERVICE HUB (WDP)

Purpose

- Aligns hiring authorities for emerging professionals to increase the pipeline of underrepresented communities in USDA Forest Service jobs.
- Provides job training and work experiences in natural resources, conservation and other environmental careers for youth, young adults, emerging professionals, students, and Veterans ranging in ages 15-35.

Programs

- **21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC):** engage young adults and veterans on work projects that provide job training experiences and in some cases, pathways to employment.
- **Indian Youth Service Corps (IYSC):** advance conservation and protection of natural and cultural resources among Tribal groups and on Tribal lands.
- **Youth Conservation Corps (YCC):** summer youth employment program for teenagers ages 15-18 who work on forests and urban communities and are exposed to natural and cultural resources careers and outdoor experiences.
- **Student and Other Internships:** partnerships with organizations and institutions that facilitate scholarship and internship programs designed to attract outstanding students from diverse communities to natural resources careers.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIPS HUB



In FY23, WDP obligated **\$62 million** to new and established partners and other organizations in support of the WCS, Reforestation, Equity, the IYSC, the Resource Assistants Program and other priorities. These multi-year national agreements are providing job training experiences to hundreds of participants annually, helping the USDA Forest Service accomplish critical work and promoting workforce diversity by expanding the number of special authority hires.

NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP OFFICE

Interested in partnering with the Forest Service?

Contact **SM.FS.NPOInquiry@usda.gov**