

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

*** 1. Type of Submission:**

- ☐ Preapplication
☒ Application
☐ Changed/Corrected Application

*** 2. Type of Application:**

- ☒ New
☐ Continuation
☐ Revision

*** If Revision, select appropriate letter(s):**

*** Other (Specify):**

*** 3. Date Received:**

4. Applicant Identifier:

MDSFAP Implementation 26

5a. Federal Entity Identifier:

5b. Federal Award Identifier:

State Use Only:

6. Date Received by State: 03/17/2026

7. State Application Identifier:

8. APPLICANT INFORMATION:

*** a. Legal Name:** State of Maryland Department of Natural Resources

*** b. Employer/Taxpayer Identification Number (EIN/TIN):**

52-6002033

*** c. UEI:**

USMJTDLGM6X8

d. Address:

*** Street1:** 580 Taylor Avenue Bldg B4

Street2:

*** City:** Annapolis

County/Parish: Anne Arundel

*** State:** MD: Maryland

Province:

*** Country:** USA: UNITED STATES

*** Zip / Postal Code:** 21401-2335

e. Organizational Unit:

Department Name:

Forest Service

Division Name:

f. Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving this application:

Prefix:

Dr.

*** First Name:**

Anne

Middle Name:

*** Last Name:**

Hairston-Strang

Suffix:

Title: State Forester

Organizational Affiliation:

MD Department of Natural Resources - Forest Service

*** Telephone Number:** 410-260-8501

Fax Number:

*** Email:** anne.hairston-strang@maryland.gov

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424

* 9. Type of Applicant 1: Select Applicant Type:

A: State Government

Type of Applicant 2: Select Applicant Type:

Type of Applicant 3: Select Applicant Type:

* Other (specify):

* 10. Name of Federal Agency:

USDA Forest Service

11. Assistance Listing Number:

10.664

Assistance Listing Title:

Cooperative Forestry Assistance

* 12. Funding Opportunity Number:

* Title:

13. Competition Identification Number:

Title:

14. Areas Affected by Project (Cities, Counties, States, etc.):

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

* 15. Descriptive Title of Applicant's Project:

MD State Forest Action Plan Implementation

Attach supporting documents as specified in agency instructions.

Add Attachments

Delete Attachments

View Attachments

Application for Federal Assistance SF-424**16. Congressional Districts Of:**

* a. Applicant

MD-3

* b. Program/Project

MD-A11

Attach an additional list of Program/Project Congressional Districts if needed.

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

17. Proposed Project:

* a. Start Date:

07/01/2026

* b. End Date:

06/30/2031

18. Estimated Funding (\$):

* a. Federal

524,144.00

* b. Applicant

* c. State

* d. Local

* e. Other

* f. Program Income

* g. TOTAL

524,144.00

*** 19. Is Application Subject to Review By State Under Executive Order 12372 Process?**☒ a. This application was made available to the State under the Executive Order 12372 Process for review on

03/17/2026

☐ b. Program is subject to E.O. 12372 but has not been selected by the State for review.☐ c. Program is not covered by E.O. 12372.*** 20. Is the Applicant Delinquent On Any Federal Debt? (If "Yes," provide explanation in attachment.)**☐ Yes☒ No

If "Yes", provide explanation and attach

Add Attachment

Delete Attachment

View Attachment

21. *By signing this application, I certify (1) to the statements contained in the list of certifications and (2) that the statements herein are true, complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. I also provide the required assurances** and agree to comply with any resulting terms if I accept an award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or claims may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties. (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001)**

☒ ** I AGREE

** The list of certifications and assurances, or an internet site where you may obtain this list, is contained in the announcement or agency specific instructions.

Authorized Representative:

Prefix:

Mr.

* First Name:

Paul

Middle Name:

* Last Name:

Peditto

Suffix:

* Title:

Assistant Secretary - Land Resources

* Telephone Number:

410-260-8549

Fax Number:

* Email:

paul.peditto@maryland.gov

* Signature of Authorized Representative:



* Date Signed:

3/19/2026

BUDGET INFORMATION - Non-Construction Programs

OMB Number: 4040-0006
Expiration Date: 06/30/2028

SECTION A - BUDGET SUMMARY

Grant Program Function or Activity (a)	Assistance Listing Number (b)	Estimated Unobligated Funds		New or Revised Budget		
		Federal (c)	Non-Federal (d)	Federal (e)	Non-Federal (f)	Total (g)
1. MD State Forest Action Plan Implementation	10.664	\$ 524,144.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 524,144.00
2.						
3.						
4.						
5. Totals		\$ 524,144.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 524,144.00

SECTION B - BUDGET CATEGORIES

6. Object Class Categories	GRANT PROGRAM, FUNCTION OR ACTIVITY				Total (5)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	
	MD State Forest Action Plan Implementation				
a. Personnel	\$ 86,884.88	\$	\$	\$	\$ 86,884.88
b. Fringe Benefits	50,449.85				50,449.85
c. Travel	5,000.00				5,000.00
d. Equipment					
e. Supplies	3,202.00				3,202.00
f. Contractual	215,198.50				215,198.50
g. Construction					
h. Other	87,600.00				87,600.00
i. Total Direct Charges (sum of 6a-6h)	448,335.23				\$ 448,335.23
j. Indirect Charges	75,808.77				\$ 75,808.77
k. TOTALS (sum of 6i and 6j)	\$ 524,144.00	\$	\$	\$	\$ 524,144.00
7. Program Income	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$

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Prescribed by OMB (Circular A -102) Page 1A

SECTION C - NON-FEDERAL RESOURCES

	(a) Grant Program	(b) Applicant	(c) State	(d) Other Sources	(e)TOTALS
8.	MD State Forest Action Plan Implementation	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
9.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
10.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
11.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
12.	TOTAL (sum of lines 8-11)	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

SECTION D - FORECASTED CASH NEEDS

	Total for 1st Year	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter
13. Federal	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
14. Non-Federal	\$ <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
15. TOTAL (sum of lines 13 and 14)	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

SECTION E - BUDGET ESTIMATES OF FEDERAL FUNDS NEEDED FOR BALANCE OF THE PROJECT

	(a) Grant Program	FUTURE FUNDING PERIODS (YEARS)			
		(b)First	(c) Second	(d) Third	(e) Fourth
16.	MD State Forest Action Plan Implementation	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>
17.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
18.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
19.	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
20.	TOTAL (sum of lines 16 - 19)	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>	\$ <input type="text"/>

SECTION F - OTHER BUDGET INFORMATION

21. Direct Charges:	<input type="text" value="\$448,335.23"/>	22. Indirect Charges:	<input type="text" value="\$75,808.77"/>
23. Remarks:	<input type="text" value="Indirect charged on salary and fringe at a rate of 55.2%"/>		

ASSURANCES - NON-CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMS

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 15 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0348-0040), Washington, DC 20503.


PLEASE DO NOT RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS PROVIDED BY THE SPONSORING AGENCY.

NOTE: Certain of these assurances may not be applicable to your project or program. If you have questions, please contact the awarding agency. Further, certain Federal awarding agencies may require applicants to certify to additional assurances. If such is the case, you will be notified.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I certify that the applicant:

1. Has the legal authority to apply for Federal assistance and the institutional, managerial and financial capability (including funds sufficient to pay the non-Federal share of project cost) to ensure proper planning, management and completion of the project described in this application.
2. Will give the awarding agency, the Comptroller General of the United States and, if appropriate, the State, through any authorized representative, access to and the right to examine all records, books, papers, or documents related to the award; and will establish a proper accounting system in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards or agency directives.
3. Will establish safeguards to prohibit employees from using their positions for a purpose that constitutes or presents the appearance of personal or organizational conflict of interest, or personal gain.
4. Will initiate and complete the work within the applicable time frame after receipt of approval of the awarding agency.
5. Will comply with the Intergovernmental Personnel Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. §§4728-4763) relating to prescribed standards for merit systems for programs funded under one of the 19 statutes or regulations specified in Appendix A of OPM's Standards for a Merit System of Personnel Administration (5 C.F.R. 900, Subpart F).
6. Will comply with all Federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination. These include but are not limited to: (a) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (P.L. 88-352) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin; (b) Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, as amended (20 U.S.C. §§1681-1683, and 1685-1686), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex; (c) Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. §794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of handicaps; (d) the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§6101-6107), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of age; (e) the Drug Abuse Office and Treatment Act of 1972 (P.L. 92-255), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of drug abuse; (f) the Comprehensive Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism Prevention, Treatment and Rehabilitation Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-616), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination on the basis of alcohol abuse or alcoholism; (g) §§523 and 527 of the Public Health Service Act of 1912 (42 U.S.C. §§290 dd-3 and 290 ee- 3), as amended, relating to confidentiality of alcohol and drug abuse patient records; (h) Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. §3601 et seq.), as amended, relating to nondiscrimination in the sale, rental or financing of housing; (i) any other nondiscrimination provisions in the specific statute(s) under which application for Federal assistance is being made; and, (j) the requirements of any other nondiscrimination statute(s) which may apply to the application.
7. Will comply, or has already complied, with the requirements of Titles II and III of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-646) which provide for fair and equitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property is acquired as a result of Federal or federally-assisted programs. These requirements apply to all interests in real property acquired for project purposes regardless of Federal participation in purchases.
8. Will comply, as applicable, with provisions of the Hatch Act (5 U.S.C. §§1501-1508 and 7324-7328) which limit the political activities of employees whose principal employment activities are funded in whole or in part with Federal funds.

9. Will comply, as applicable, with the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. §§276a to 276a-7), the Copeland Act (40 U.S.C. §276c and 18 U.S.C. §874), and the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. §§327-333), regarding labor standards for federally-assisted construction subagreements.
10. Will comply, if applicable, with flood insurance purchase requirements of Section 102(a) of the Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 (P.L. 93-234) which requires recipients in a special flood hazard area to participate in the program and to purchase flood insurance if the total cost of insurable construction and acquisition is \$10,000 or more.
11. Will comply with environmental standards which may be prescribed pursuant to the following: (a) institution of environmental quality control measures under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (P.L. 91-190) and Executive Order (EO) 11514; (b) notification of violating facilities pursuant to EO 11738; (c) protection of wetlands pursuant to EO 11990; (d) evaluation of flood hazards in floodplains in accordance with EO 11988; (e) assurance of project consistency with the approved State management program developed under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. §§1451 et seq.); (f) conformity of Federal actions to State (Clean Air) Implementation Plans under Section 176(c) of the Clean Air Act of 1955, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§7401 et seq.); (g) protection of underground sources of drinking water under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended (P.L. 93-523); and, (h) protection of endangered species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (P.L. 93-205).
12. Will comply with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. §§1271 et seq.) related to protecting components or potential components of the national wild and scenic rivers system.
13. Will assist the awarding agency in assuring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. §470), EO 11593 (identification and protection of historic properties), and the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. §§469a-1 et seq.).
14. Will comply with P.L. 93-348 regarding the protection of human subjects involved in research, development, and related activities supported by this award of assistance.
15. Will comply with the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act of 1966 (P.L. 89-544, as amended, 7 U.S.C. §§2131 et seq.) pertaining to the care, handling, and treatment of warm blooded animals held for research, teaching, or other activities supported by this award of assistance.
16. Will comply with the Lead-Based Paint Poisoning Prevention Act (42 U.S.C. §§4801 et seq.) which prohibits the use of lead-based paint in construction or rehabilitation of residence structures.
17. Will cause to be performed the required financial and compliance audits in accordance with the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996 and OMB Circular No. A-133, "Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non-Profit Organizations."
18. Will comply with all applicable requirements of all other Federal laws, executive orders, regulations, and policies governing this program.
19. Will comply with the requirements of Section 106(g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act (TVPA) of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. 7104) which prohibits grant award recipients or a sub-recipient from (1) Engaging in severe forms of trafficking in persons during the period of time that the award is in effect (2) Procuring a commercial sex act during the period of time that the award is in effect or (3) Using forced labor in the performance of the award or subawards under the award.

SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED CERTIFYING OFFICIAL 	TITLE Assistant Secretary - Land Resources
APPLICANT NAME Paul Peditto	DATE SUBMITTED 3/19/2026

**CERTIFICATION REGARDING LOBBYING**

Applicants should also review the instructions for certification included in the regulations before completing this form. Signature on this form provides for compliance with certification requirements under 4 CFR Part 418 Appendix A, Certification Regarding Lobbying. The certifications shall be treated as a material representation of fact upon which reliance will be placed when the U.S. Forest Service determines to award the covered transaction, grant, or cooperative agreement.

Lobbying

The undersigned certifies, to the best of his or her knowledge and belief, that:

(1) No Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid, by or on behalf of the undersigned, to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress in connection with the awarding of any Federal contract, the making of any Federal grant, the making of any Federal loan, the entering into of any cooperative agreement, and the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment, or modification of any Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative agreement.

(2) If any funds other than Federal appropriated funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a Member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this Federal contract, grant, loan, or cooperative


agreement, the undersigned shall complete and submit Standard Form-LLL, 'Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying,' in accordance with its instructions.

(3) The undersigned shall require that the language of this certification be included in the award documents for all subawards at all tiers (including subcontracts, subgrants, and contracts under grants, loans, and cooperative agreements) and that all subrecipients shall certify and disclose accordingly.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when this transaction was made or entered into. Submission of this certification is a prerequisite for making or entering into this transaction imposed by section 1352, title 31, U.S. Code. Any person who fails to file the required certification shall be subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$100,000 for each such failure.

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that the applicant will comply with the above applicable certification.

SIGNATURE

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE (BY)	TITLE/RELATIONSHIP OF THE INDIVIDUAL IF SIGNING IN A REPRESENTATIVE CAPACITY	DATE SIGNED (MM-DD-YYYY)
	Assistant Secretary - Land Resources	3/19/2026



FINANCIAL CAPABILITY CHECKLIST STATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES Fiscal Year: 2025

Adequate accounting systems and internal policies should meet the following criteria as outlined in the most current version of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circular of Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements.

- (A) Accounting records should provide information needed to adequately identify the receipt of funds under each grant awarded and the expenditure of funds for each grant.
- (B) Entries in accounting records should refer to subsidiary records and/or documentation which support the entry and which can be readily located.
- (C) The accounting system should provide accurate and current financial reporting information.
- (D) The accounting system should be integrated with an adequate system of internal controls to safeguard the funds and assets covered, validate the accuracy and reliability of accounting data, promote operational efficiency, and ensure adherence to prescribed management policies.

PURPOSE: This Checklist is to assist your state agency in understanding the minimum requirements necessary to accept, manage, and spend Federal funds. If you have questions regarding any of the items in this checklist, please contact your Forest Service Grants & Agreements Specialist or Program Manager.

INSTRUCTIONS

A State Government Agency representative will review and complete the form, certifying in the last section that they have read and understand items listed in this document. The completed form will be returned to the designated U.S. Forest Service Grants & Agreements Specialist or Program Manager.

STANDARDS FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

- ☒ 1. Responsible parties for my agency are familiar with the OMB Uniform Administrative Requirements and the Cost Principles, as they apply to Federal grants.
- ☒ 2. My agency understands that it must expend and account for award funds in accordance with State laws and procedures for expending and accounting for its own funds. Fiscal control and accounting procedures of the State, as well as its subgrantees and cost-type contractors, must be sufficient to:
 - 1) Permit preparation of reports required by this part and the statutes authorizing the award, and
 - 2) Permit the tracing of funds to a level of expenditures adequate to establish that such funds have not been used in violation of the restrictions and prohibitions of applicable statutes.
- ☒ 3. State agency funds used for match are subject to the same requirements as Federal grant funds. Costs used for match must be allowable under the Cost Principles, recorded accurately, and not used to match any other Federal award.
- ☒ 4. Time distribution records are maintained for each employee that accurately reflects work performed for grant funded activities or used as match. These charges are recorded and maintained in accordance with the Cost Principles.
- ☒ 5. A negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) or cost allocation plan must be federally approved and in effect in order for indirect costs to be allowable for reimbursement or match.
- ☒ 6. Funds specifically budgeted for one project or program may not be used to support another project or program without prior written approval of the awarding agency.

SUBGRANTS

- ☒ 7. My agency is aware that it is required to ensure that a subrecipient's financial system meets the standards described in the Uniform Administrative Requirements. Financial records must adequately identify the source and application of funds provided for Federally funded activities. Applicable OMB Cost Principles, agency program regulations, and the terms of grant and subgrant documents will be followed in determining the reasonableness, allowability, and allocability of costs. Accounting records must be supported by source documentation such as cancelled checks, paid bills, payrolls, time and attendance records, contract and subgrant award documents, etc.
- ☒ 8. My agency is aware that subrecipients must be monitored for financial operations (records, systems, and procedures), performance, and conformance to regulations.



- ☒ 9. My agency is aware that we must not award or permit any subsequent sub-award to any party that is debarred or suspended from participation in Federal assistance programs. The "Excluded Parties List" system for suspended or debarred subrecipients and contractors is at www.sam.gov.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- ☒ 10. **Travel:** My agency has a written travel policy which is consistent for both internal travel and approved travel costs under the Federal award. If no policy exists, then my agency adheres to the Federal Travel Regulations (FTR).
- ☒ 11. **Personnel:** My agency has written personnel policies and procedures that provide for reasonable and consistent treatment of personnel costs, such as fringe benefits and pension plans.
- ☒ 12. **Record Retention:** My agency retains all grant related records in accordance with the timeframes identified in the Uniform Administrative Requirements. In general, all grant related records must be maintained for 3 years from the date the final expenditure report is submitted.
- ☒ 13. **Procurement:** My agency has written procurement policies and procedures. The same policies and procedures are followed whether the procurements are with Federal grant funds or other non-Federal funds
- ☒ 14. **Audit:** My agency is aware of OMB A-133 Single Audit which requires audit of any entity that expends more than \$750,000 in federal funds in a fiscal year. My agency understands that their particular grant funded programs may not be audited, but any audit findings must be considered during a financial review.
- ☒ 15. **Debarment/Suspension:** My agency has internal policy to check the "Excluded Parties List" system for suspended or debarred sub-grantees and contractors, prior to award at <https://www.sam.gov/>.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I acknowledge that my State Agency has received this document and understands the financial management standards necessary to manage Federal awards and subawards. At any time in reviewing this document, in pre-award negotiations, during the post-award meeting, or at any time subsequent, if my agency has questions regarding the content presented in this checklist or related to the award, I understand that I may bring this to the attention of the Forest Service for clarification and that the Forest Service is available to assist my organization.

Completed by:

Title: Assistant Secretary - Land Resources

Print Name: Paul Peditto

Date: 3/19/2026

State Agency Name: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0217. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call toll free (866) 632-9992 (voice). TDD users can contact USDA through local relay or the Federal relay at (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (relay voice). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Grant Narrative, Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry
MD DNR Forest Service
Maryland's Forest Action Plan Priorities FFY26
26-DG-XXXXXXX-XXX

March 15, 2026

\$521,445 (\$214,946.82 Forest Stewardship, \$ 306,498.68 Forest Health)

Lead Contact(s):

Technical Contact: Daniel Rider
580 Taylor Ave., E-1,
Annapolis, MD 21401
443-875-7387, FAX 410-260-8595
daniel.rider@maryland.gov

Financial Contact: Chris Smith
580 Taylor Ave., E-1,
Annapolis, MD 21401
410-260-8964, FAX 410-260-8595
chris.smith2@maryland.gov

DUNS# 033425385
EIN# 526002033

Purpose:

The goal of the FFY 26 Forest Action Plan Priorities award is to sustain and expand the capacity of Maryland DNR Forest Service and Maryland Department of Agriculture to implement priority actions of the 2020 Maryland Forest Action Plan. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds are being used in Maryland to advance sustainable forests through management and markets for wood products. Forthcoming amendments to the 2020 Maryland Forest Action Plan are not expected to alter the sections relevant to forest management, health, and markets.

The grant supports several *National State & Private Forestry Objectives*:

- 1.1 Identify and conserve high priority forest ecosystems and landscapes,
- 1.2 Actively and sustainably manage forests,
- 3.1 Protect and enhance water quality and quantity,
- 3.3 Assist communities in planning for and reducing forest health risks,
- 3.5 Protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat.

Work in this proposal addresses the leading goal in Maryland's 2020 Forest Action Plan, "Grow Forests, Habitats, Markets, and Jobs". It will implement the Maryland Forest Industry Economic Adjustment Strategy developed in 2021, a primary tactic for Objective I.A. Keep Forests as Forests and Strategy I.A.1. Expand and diversify forest product markets to improve demand for keeping land forested and managed for renewable, recyclable, and biodegradable forest products. Work also directly supports Objective I.C. Invest in Forest Management for a Renewable Rural Economy: Strategy I.C.1. Partner with forest industry and environmental stakeholders to maintain and attract markets to support sustainable

forestry and building practices and Strategy I.C.2. Work with rural development partners to create green jobs and promote a diverse forest products industry for sustainable communities.

The second Action Plan goal is “Manage Forest Health and Fire”; proposed work by DNR and MDA covers insect and plant pest survey and management, closely addressing Objective II.B. Develop approaches to reduce threats from long-term stressors to forests and Strategy II.B.3. Control invasive pests, destructive insects and diseases to prevent widespread forest mortality and loss of native forest types.

The third Action Plan goal is “Provide Clean Water”; this proposal provides resources for work that will directly support Strategy III.A.1. Collaborate with local partners to use forests and trees to improve watershed conditions and III.A.2. Protect a minimum of 70% of Maryland stream sides and shorelines with riparian forest buffers.

Scope of Work:

Three major objectives for the grant are:

1. Implement priorities in Maryland’s Forest Industry Economic Adjustment Strategy, including business retention and expansion, workforce training, and expanded awareness of forest product markets and role in climate adaptation.
2. DNR technical assistance and coordination of response to pathogens and controlling invasive species with land managers in local and state agencies; and
3. Expand survey and treatment of major forest health pests and stressors with Maryland Department of Agriculture Forest Pest Management.

Methodology and Timeline:

Grant Period: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2031

Objective 1: Implement Maryland Forest Industry Economic Adjustment Strategy priorities

The grant will fund staff and partner support for key recommendations from the 2021 Maryland Forest Industry Economic Adjustment Strategy (EAS), which identified the opportunities and barriers to maintain if not expand markets that better support sustainable forestry. A frequent landowner concern is how to carry out needed forest management practices in an affordable manner. Healthy, diverse forest product markets are essential for both forest health and resource-based economy needs, creating more equitable access to practices for landowners of all income levels. Landscape-scale planning for a revised Forest Stewardship Program will be a principle tenet of program delivery. Markets providing financial resources for managing urban wood sources and forests will continue to be supported through expansion or development.

Work will partner with Maryland Forests Association (a 501(c)3 conservation organization) and other EAS Steering Committee members including representatives from MD Dept. of Commerce, MD Dept. of Agriculture, MD Energy Administration, MD Dept. of Labor and local economic development organizations. Work will focus on identifying priority near-term and long-term opportunities and barriers for expanding and retaining markets. Examples include: supporting implementation of phytosanitation treatments of heat-treated firewood; supporting and promoting newly emerging wood products (e.g., SuperWood and thermally modified hardwoods); conducting formal Business Retention and Expansion

program (BRE) surveys and statistical analyses; convening stakeholder meetings to identify and then address market barriers and opportunities; workforce training and skills development; career awareness; supporting policy and awareness of wood energy benefits to forest management and health. Other partners will include regional economic development councils and universities, including University of Maryland, Virginia Tech and Allegany College of Maryland, in research, outreach, and workforce development efforts.

The information resources of the Eastern Shore Regional GIS Collaborative Forest Hub with the EAS, Forest Products Story Map, and Forest Industry Resource Viewer will be supported and expanded as a forestry dashboard for vastly increasing public engagement of the benefits of forest management and markets.

Outcomes/Deliverables:

Coordinate EAS implementation meetings w/agencies, industry, allied organizations and public for market diversification, support for emerging markets, and improved supply chain resiliency.	4 partner meetings, summaries to include recommendations, tasks and outcomes); 1 or more tours; tabling/presenting at least 3 events (Rural Maryland Day, Tri-County Councils, MACO, Farm Bureau. LEAD, or similar). Pursue establishment of a 'forest markets coordination' council or similar entity. 1 Logger Appreciation event.
Workforce and skills development; career awareness	5+ engagements, workshops, field days – regional. 20 adults and 1,000+ students; (e.g., Junior Achievement, Master Logger)
Forestry Hub expanded to include forestry dashboard – a GIS based tool demonstrating forestry metrics	Interactive dashboard updated and summary report of usage
Implement Business Retention and Expansion program	16 formal BRE interviews and summaries; analysis report ; interview 20+ sawmills at FPO renewal;
Key Market Opportunity coordination and outreach	Promotion of locally produced products (e.g., branding, 'buy local'); promote grant opportunities to industry; serve as technical resource to policy developers. 1 or more projects increasing awareness of forestry and markets (e.g., MFA Faces of Forestry)
Administer and expand thermal phytosanitation certification service for growing the firewood market.	Service 2 producers and recruit at least 1 new firewood business
Expand the use of renewable wood energy	Assist MCEC w/forums (1), tours (1), outreach (various) and technical assists.
Demonstrate benefits and pathways of wood utilization.	Conduct 6 portable sawmill demonstrations at Parks, schools, fairs, etc.; 100 observers.
Forest Assessments (landscape level planning)	12 Forest Assessments and Priority Areas published and utilized to prioritize stewardship implementation, (1 each per FS Project Area)
Update and revise where needed Stewardship program offerings	Revise Operations Orders; revise WIP roster of practices and standards, to complement NRCS

	practices; publish outreach materials to market Stewardship programs
Analysis of incentive programs, for identifying improvements	Technical reviews of FCMA, WAP, and WIP

Objective 2: Technical assistance to build community capacity to identify and manage invasive species.

Maryland has made multiple efforts to restore and expand forests, from the Chesapeake Bay restoration commitments for forest buffers, urban tree canopy, and healthy watersheds to the new 5 Million Trees program created in HB 991 of 2021. A shared challenge among public and private land managers is controlling invasive plants in natural areas. Utilizing established invasives species assessment tools and multiple information exchanges multiple priority areas in need of invasive management have been identified. The main challenge of invasive control among public and private land managers is leveraging personnel, time, and resources. Addressing this problem, the MD Forest Service will:

- Expand capacity through information sharing and regional coordination on invasive plant control to leverage available personnel and resources.
- Develop and convene a steering committee for regional invasive species management. Goals shall be to identify key issues across a defined region and assist partner organizations with knowledge sharing, technical skill building, and planning coordination.
- Partner with state and local agencies actively engaged in restoring native forests by utilizing the results of assessment tools to implement management activities in forested natural areas. Maryland Park Service, the Alice Ferguson Foundation, Accokeek Foundation, Cylburn Arboretum, Patapsco Heritage Greenway, Evergreen Heritage and others are anticipated to be partners in invasive control.
- Implementation will continue for demonstrating control measures of common invasive plants on sites having high public visitation where control measures of common invasive plants can be carried out and interpreted. Land-unit-specific goals will guide development of invasive species and fire risk reduction planning.
- Technical support will be given with respect to Land-unit-specific goals for development of invasive species and fire risk reduction planning. Approaches will consider the level of infestation by invasive plants and will consider options for managing deer browse effects. Implementation will use different techniques suited to the site and the species of concern, such as a forestry mulcher, prescribed burns, targeted chemical spray, underplanting with seedling and larger bare-root stock and the like. Severe infestations will likely require multiple treatments. Partnerships with groups such as Weed Warriors, Tree Troopers, and Watershed Stewards, DNR Forestry Boards will be maintained, and new partnerships will be sought. Active direct support of these organizations will involve making presentations, providing technical training and consultations, and participating in field events.

Outcomes/Deliverables:

Forest Rehab Information Exchange	1 or more meetings; 40+ land managers reached
PRISM Steering Committee Development/Implementation	3 or more meetings and report
Agroforestry Community Partner Projects	2 or more projects supporting 300+ residents; 1 intern
Response Plans addressing forest health concerns	3 communities receive response plan addressing threats (e.g., invasives, fire) and detailed plan for needed management

Issues coordinated with DNR Inv. Sp. Matrix Team	4 meetings
Forest Health Assessment and Mgmt. Plans	3 or more; 750+ acres
Forest Restoration/Inv. Sp. Control demonstration	2 or more projects; 100 acres

Objective 3: Enhanced forest health damage agent information (MDA Subcontract)

Maryland Department of Agriculture, Forest Pest Management

Lead Contact(s)

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Purpose

The goal of Maryland Department of Agriculture's Cooperative Forest Health Program is to protect and promote the forest resources of Maryland by providing timely pest identification and pest management advice to State and private forest owners and managers. The health of urban and rural forests is affected by many different insects and diseases. The main objective of the Program is the initial detection, evaluation and identification of these pests affecting forests.

Federal assistance is needed to undertake enhanced forest health surveys, monitoring, and treatments which are beyond the scope of the Cooperative Forest Health Core and Forest Health Monitoring Off-Plot Program.

These enhanced projects will aid in the implementation of the following forest resource strategy. Maryland's Forest Resource Strategy, page 19

Strategy II.B.3. Control invasive pests, destructive insects and diseases to prevent widespread forest mortality and loss of native forest types.

Scope of Work

The enhanced projects will be conducted by the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA), Forest Pest Management Section (FPM) with cooperation from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Parks, Forestry, Wildlife Services.

Deliverables:

- Enhanced hemlock treatments – 2,000 trees or 100 acres
- Enhanced ash treatments – 200 trees or 10 acres
- Dedicated Saltwater intrusion flight & mapping – 1,100,000 acres shoreline surveyed
- Asian Longhorned Beetle Trapping & Survey – determine presence of ALB statewide

- Dedicated oak mortality sampling (non-Oak Wilt) - causal agents of rapid or unusual oak mortality determined in both forested and landscape trees statewide.
- Beech leaf disease long-term monitoring plots and point surveys- determination of presence of BLD in non-positive counties and beech health measurements at 20 locations.

Methodology and Timeline

MDA work is expected to be focused on the timeframe July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2028.

Enhanced hemlock treatments-

Additional treatments of 2,000 trees or 100 acres will be performed. Treatment data including treatment locations, acres/trees treated and condition of hemlocks (avg. dbh of treated trees, avg. transparency of treated trees, avg. live crown ratio of treated trees, and avg. vigor of treated trees) will be taken. Individual branch sampling will be used to compare adelgid suppression results of treated trees to non-treated trees. Post treatment monitoring will be conducted to assess treatment efficacy.

July – December	January – June	Close Out
Planning / implementation / Reporting	Planning / implementation / Reporting	
Referrals / Ground Surveys / Inspections		
<i>September – December</i> Insecticide application	<i>March – June</i> Insecticide application	
		Reports

Enhanced ash treatments-

Additional treatments of 200 or 10 acres will be performed. Treatment data including treatment locations, acres/trees treated and condition of ash (avg. dbh of treated trees, avg. transparency of treated trees, avg. live crown ratio of treated trees, and avg. vigor of treated trees) will be taken. Targeted trees will be rare ash species, as well as dominant ash.

July – December	January – June	Close Out
Planning / implementation / Reporting	Planning / implementation / Reporting	
Referrals / Ground Surveys / Inspections		
	<i>May – July</i> Insecticide application	
		Reports

Dedicated saltwater intrusion flight & mapping-

Following a 5-mile flight grid the shorelines of Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties will be flown and mapped. The combined shoreline for these four counties is estimated to be 1,100,000 acres. Aerial mapping flights are best during full leaf out before any leaf drop.

July – December	January – June	Close Out
Planning / implementation / Reporting	Planning / implementation / Reporting	
	<i>June – August</i> Aerial flight mapping	
		Reports

Asian Longhorned Beetle Surveys-

Asian longhorned beetle has been found in NY, NJ, Massachusetts, Ohio, Illinois, South Carolina, and Ontario, CN. Some of these infestations have been successfully eradicated with early detection. ALB detection surveys in MD will concentrate on urban and landscape trees initially and focus on ports of entry and areas where firewood may have come from infested states. A combination of visual surveys and pheromone trapping will be used.

July – December	January – June	Close Out
Planning / implementation / Reporting	Planning / implementation / Reporting	
<i>September – December</i> Visual surveys	<i>June - October</i> Visual surveys/trapping?	
		Reports

Dedicated oak decline survey -

This survey will focus on trying to determine the causal agents of non-oak wilt related oak mortality. Samples will be collected in areas of rapidly dying oaks or unusual instances of oak mortality and sent to a contracted plant pathologist

July – December	January – June	Close Out
Planning / implementation / Reporting	Planning / implementation / Reporting	
	<i>May – September</i> sampling	
		Reports

Beech leaf disease monitoring -

This survey will focus on determining the presence of the nematode, *Litylenchus crenatae mccannii*, the linked causal agent of beech leaf disease and beech mortality. Samples will be collected in areas where leaf symptoms are present in non-positive counties. Long-term monitoring plots will also be surveyed for beech leaf disease and beech mortality.

July – December	January – June	Close Out
Planning / implementation / Reporting	Planning / implementation / Reporting	
	<i>May – October</i> Sampling & Surveys	
		Reports

MDA FPM will use contractual or seasonal employees to accomplish these enhanced health surveys and will require additional supplies and equipment for the extra staff.

Accomplishment Reporting

Information will be reported in the Maryland Annual Pest Conditions Report and also submitted by November 1, 2026, to the appropriate federal reporting groups. Interim Grant reports will be filed, and a final Grant report will be submitted within three months of the conclusion of this Grant.

Information will be reported in the MDA Annual Report.

Progress among the partners will be coordinated through the ongoing Chesapeake Bay Program Forestry Work Group and Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Alliance Forest Health meetings.

Accomplishment/Performance Measure	Measure Type*	Grant Target
Communities reached with forest health planning	Region	15
Areas assessed for forest health	Region	1.1 million acres
Forest mapping/planning for forest health	State	1500 acres
Acres and percent of priority watershed areas where S&PF activities are enhancing or protecting water quality and quantity.	National	210+ acres

* Measure Types:

National = National S&PF Program accomplishment/performance measure

Region = Region-specific accomplishments reporting measure

State = State-specific accomplishments reporting measure

MDA Deliverables:		\$
• Enhanced hemlock treatments – 2,000 trees or 100 acres		
• Enhanced ash treatments – 200 trees or 10 acres		
• Dedicated Saltwater intrusion flight & mapping – 1.1M acres shoreline surveyed		
• Asian Longhorned Beetle Trapping & Survey – determine ALB presence statewide		
• Dedicated oak mortality sampling (non-Oak Wilt) - causal agents of rapid or unusual oak mortality determined in both forested and landscape trees statewide.		
• BLD – 20 Long term plots annually; detection sampling in non-positive counties		
	a. Personnel	70,000
	contractual & classified	
	b. Fringe Benefits	42,000
	c. Travel	1,699
	Instate pest treatments, surveys, meetings	
	e. Supplies	3,000
	Injectors, insecticides, iPads (tablets) cell plans, traps, lures, anti-freeze, labels, etc.	
	f. Contractual	3,500
	Pathology lab, aerial survey vendor	
	h. Other	435
	shipping specimens	
	i. TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES (sum of a-h)	120,634
	j. Indirect Costs (15%)	19,565
	k. TOTAL COSTS (i+j)	\$ 140,199

Budget for MD BIL-SFAP: This table provides additional budget information to complement the SF424A.

FY25 Allocation

Budget Items by SF 424A Object Class Categories	Federal \$	State Match \$	Other \$	Source of "Other Match"
a. Personnel	86,884.88	0		
contractual & classified				
b. Fringe Benefits	50,449.85	0		
c. Travel	5,000.00	0		
instate pest treatments, surveys, meetings, workshops, training				
d. Equipment				
e. Supplies	3,202.00	0		
Office and field supplies				
f. Contractual	215,198.50	0		
<i>EAS Coordination, MDA Forest Health, partner inv. Sp. work</i>				
g. Construction				
h. Other	87,600.00	0		
Phone and internet, postage				
i. TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES (sum of a-h)	448,335.23	0		
j. Indirect Costs (55.20%)	75,808.77	0		
k. TOTAL COSTS (i+j)	524,144.00	0		
l. Program Income				

Grant Name:	BIL MD Forest Action Plan Priorities (FSP, FH)					
Grant Number:	26-DG-xxxxxxx-XXX					
	\$ 217,446.82 Stewardship					
	\$ 306,697.18 Forest Health					

[illegible]

BIL MD Forest Action Plan Priorities (FSP, FH)				
26-DG-xxxxxxx-XXX				
Detailed Budget Narrative:				
c. Travel:				
		Item Description	Computation	Cost
		Training		500
		Stewardship Cmte mtg and/or Forest Health 2 in-person event, 50 people@\$25		2500
		NMSFA committee meetings or similar (Health, CFM, Utils)		2000
			Total:	\$ 5,000

BIL MD Forest Action Plan Priorities (FSP, FH)

26-DG-xxxxxxx-XXX

Detailed Budget Narrative:

d. Equipment

[illegible]

BIL MD Forest Action Plan Priorities (FSP, FH)				
26-DG-xxxxxxx-XXX				
Detailed Budget Narrative:				
e. Supplies:				
		Supply Item Description	Computation	Cost
		Office supplies for planning/coord.	paper, ink etc \$250 subscriptio	750
		Replacement phytosanitation kiln certification probes; sawmill consumables		500
		Outreach materials with MFA, ForBds, AgroEcology, others		1857
		Field supplies for forest health treatment; lab analyses		95
			Subtotal	\$ 3,202

BIL MD Forest Action Plan Priorities (FSP, FH)									
26-DG-xxxxxxx-XXX									
Detailed Budget Narrative:									
f. Consultants/Contracts:									
	Item Description	Computation	Cost						
	MD Department of Agriculture		\$ 140,199						
	MD Forestry Assn- Forest Markets/Workforce outreach/coord.		\$ 75,000						
			\$ -						
	Total:		\$ 215,199						
	MFA								\$ 75,000
	Coordinate EAS implementation meetings w/agencies, industry	4 partner meetings, summaries (e.g., Forestry Day; Logger Appreciation Banquet; MLP; LEAD; Farm Bureau)							20000
	Workforce development (trainings, field tours, presentations)	3 events, field days or similar interactions (e.g., JA participation)							15000
	Public outreach on forest markets and management	1,500 unique social media/website visits (e.g., FoF)							15000
	Implement Business Retention and Expansion surveys and analysis	16 Structured Interviews, 1 reports							25000
	Key Market Opportunity coordination and outreach (wood energy, WPIEI, emerging	targeted promotion; wood energy tour/video or otherwise support							
	MDA Deliverables:								
	· Enhanced hemlock treatments – 2,000 trees or 100 acres								
	· Enhanced ash treatments – 200 trees or 10 acres								
	· Dedicated Saltwater intrusion flight & mapping – 1,100,000 acres shoreline surveyed								
	· Asian Longhorned Beetle Trapping & Survey – determine presence of ALB statewide								
	· Dedicated oak mortality sampling (non Oak Wilt) -								
	causal agents of rapid or unusual oak mortality determined in both forested and landscape trees statewide.								
		MDA Deliverable funding							
		BLD – 20 Long term plots annually; detection sampling in non-positive counties							
		a. Personnel	70,000						
		contractual & classified							
		b. Fringe Benefits	42,000						
		c. Travel	1,699						
		Instate pest treatments, surveys, meetings							
		e. Supplies	3,000						
		Injectors, insecticides, iPads (tablets) cell plans, traps, lures, anti-freeze, labels, etc.							
		f. Contractual	3,500						
		Pathology lab, aerial survey vendor							
		h. Other	435						
		shipping specimens							
		i. TOTAL DIRECT CHARGES (sum of a-h)	120,634						
		j. Indirect Costs (15%)	19,565						
		k. TOTAL COSTS (i+j)	\$140,199						

BIL MD Forest Action Plan Priorities (FSP, FH)				
26-DG-xxxxxxx-XXX				
Detailed Budget Narrative:				
h. Other				
		Item Description	Computation	Cost
		cell phones	1 phones, 12 months @50/m	600
		Forestry Hub hosting; dashboard develo	1 yr maintenance fee Dashbo	2000
		Local Govt.- Forest Health project coord	\$1500/ac 50 ac	75000
		Internship, placed with partner org		10000
		Total		\$ 87,600

BIL MD Forest Action Plan Priorities (FSP, FH)							
26-DG-xxxxxxx-XXX				Approved Indirect Rate as of 7/2022:		55.20%	
Detailed Budget Narrative:							
I. Indirect							
				Federal		Non-Federal	
Salary & Fringe Costs:				Cost		Portion (Match)	
	Federal			137,334.73		-	
	Match					-	
	Total			137,334.73		-	
Indirect Cost @		55.20%		75,808.77		-	

BIL MD Forest Action Plan Priorities (FSP, FH)				
26-DG-xxxxxxx-XXX				
Detailed Budget Narrative:				
	Budget Category	Federal Amount	Non-Federal Match Amount	Total
a.	Personnel	86,884.88	-	86,885
b.	Fringe Benefits	50,449.85	-	50,450
c.	Travel	5,000.00		5,000
d.	Equipment	-		-
e.	Supplies	3,202.00		3,202
f.	Consultants/Contracts	215,198.50		215,199
g.	Construction			
h.	Other	87,600.00		87,600
	Total Direct Costs	448,335.23	-	448,335
i.	Indirect Costs	75,808.77	-	75,809
	Total Project Costs	\$ 524,144.00	-	524,144
	SPF allacotation	524,144.00		
	difference	(0.00)		
	FSP	\$ 217,446.82	41%	
	FH	306,697.18	59%	