

Appendix 1 – Authorities, Priorities, and Strategy

Authority, Priority, or Strategy	Direction
Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1966, Title I, Section 7	Provides authority for the “acquisition of land, waters, or interests in land or waters” and directs the National Forest System (NFS) to use LWCF funds to acquire “Inholdings within (a) Wilderness areas of the NFS, and (b) other areas of national forests as the boundaries of those forests exist on the effective date of this Act, or purchase units, all of which other areas are primarily of value for outdoor recreation purposes.”
2019 Dingell Act (P.L. 116-9) Section 3001(e), amending LWCF	In determining whether to acquire land, or an interest in land, USDA shall take into account— (1) the significance of the acquisition; (2) the urgency of the acquisition; (3) management efficiencies; (4) management cost savings; (5) geographic distribution; (6) threats to the integrity of the land; and (7) the recreational value of the land.
Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, at 16 U.S.C. 1534 (a) and (b)	<u>16 U.S.C. 1534(a)</u> : “The Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to the National Forest System, shall establish and implement a program to conserve fish, wildlife and plants, including those which are listed as endangered species or threatened species pursuant to 1533 of this title.” <u>16 U.S.C. 1534(b)</u> : “Funds made available pursuant to [the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended], may be used for the purpose of acquiring lands, waters, or interests therein under subsection (a) of this section.”
Senate Report 116-123 (FY2020 Appropriations)	Projects should: (1) enhance access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities. (2) be selected based on their role in meeting key recreation needs (3) have a willing seller (4) Have an appraisal or market research initiated (5) Be deemed by management units and regional or State offices to meet resource management goals or the parcel is part of an exchange, inholding, or donation.
Joint Explanatory Statement for Interior Appropriations Act (FY2021)	All nominations submitted “should be comprised of projects for which tracts and willing sellers have been identified, and an initial appraisal or market research has been initiated.”
Executive Order 14008, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”	<u>Sec. 216</u> outlines a “goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.” <u>Section 214</u> establishes a policy that aims to put people to work conserving our public lands and waters. “The Federal Government must protect America's natural treasures, increase reforestation, improve access to recreation, and increase resilience to wildfires” while creating jobs for Americans, “including women and people of color in occupations where they are underrepresented.” <u>Section 219</u> on Environmental Justice outlines that the US must ensure environmental and economic justice are key considerations in our policies and “agencies shall ... address the disproportionately high and adverse human health, environmental, climate-related and other cumulative impacts on disadvantaged communities, as well as the accompanying economic challenges of such impacts.”

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Executive Order 13985, “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government”	The Order outlines a comprehensive approach to advancing equity, defining “equity” as the “consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.”
Forest Service Chief’s Five Priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Uplift and empower our employees through a respectful, safe working environment. (2) Be good neighbors and provide excellent customer service. (3) Promote shared stewardship by increasing partnerships and volunteerism. (4) Improve the condition of forests and grasslands. (5) Enhance recreation opportunities, improve access, and sustain infrastructure.
“Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America’s Forests”	In January 2022, the Forest Service launched a robust, 10-year strategy to address the wildfire crisis in the places where it poses the most immediate threats to communities. The strategy combines a historic investment of congressional funding with years of scientific research and planning into a national effort that will dramatically increase the scale and pace of forest health treatments over the next decade. Through the strategy, the agency will work with states, Tribes and other partners to address wildfire risks to critical infrastructure, protect communities, and make forests more resilient. In early 2023, the USDA Forest Service added eleven landscapes to the initial ten landscapes, for a total of twenty-one landscapes.