



STATE OF ARKANSAS  
**Department of Finance  
and Administration**

**H**  
**OFFICE OF BUDGET**  
1509 West Seventh Street, Suite 402  
Post Office Box 3278  
Little Rock, Arkansas 72203-3278  
Phone: (501) 682-1941  
Fax: (501) 682-1086  
[www.arkansas.gov/dfa](http://www.arkansas.gov/dfa)

January 2, 2026

Senator Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair  
Representative Jeffrey Wardlaw, Co-Chair  
Performance Evaluation & Expenditure Review Committee  
Arkansas Legislative Council  
State Capitol Building  
Little Rock, AR 72201

RE: FY26 Miscellaneous Federal Grant Request(s)

Dear Co-Chairs:

I am forwarding for appropriate action as required by law, the attached Miscellaneous Federal Grant Request(s) that have received my approval as Chief Fiscal Officer of the State.

Sincerely,

James L. Hudson  
Secretary

Attachment(s)

FY26 REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE REVIEW  
 MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL PROGRAMS ACT  
 (A.C.A. 19-7-101 ET. SEQ.)

**H.1**

NEW PROGRAM

DFA IGS  
 State Technology Planning  
 Agency Request in  
 compliance with IT Plan  
 Certification (if applicable)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant &amp; Funding Percentages</u>	<u>Federal Appropriation Amount Requested</u>	<u>No. of Positions Requested (if any)</u>	<u>DFA - Chief Fiscal Officer</u>		<u>Certification (if applicable)</u>
				<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
1. Department of Veterans Affairs - North Little Rock Cemetery Expansion	To expand the burial section and install 3,100 crypts at the North Little Rock Veterans Cemetery.	\$5,593,296	0	X		N/A

Funding Percentages

	Federal	State	Other	Total
FY26	100	0	0	100
FY27	100	0	0	100
FY28	100	0	0	100
FY29	100	0	0	100
FY30	0	0	0	0

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: September 30, 2028

**UTILIZATION REPORT  
FOR  
MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
A.C.A. §19-7-501 ET SEQ.**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Grant ID: AR-22-09 Legislative Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: Arkansas Department of Veterans Affairs Program Title: North Little Rock Expansion

Granting Organization: Department of Veterans Affairs Grant #: AR-22-09

Effective Date of Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning: 9/25/2025 Ending: 6/30/2026

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change: (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
To expand the burial section and install 3100 crypts at the North Little Rock Veterans Cemetery.

**Project-Grant Funding**

Business Area Code: 9915  
Funds Center Code: DL3  
Fund Code: FDV1100  
Functional Area Code: HHS

Continuation of Existing Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
Change in Existing Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Program: X

	New Federal Funds	State Matching Funds	Other Matching Funds	Project Total
Regular Salaries				
Extra Help				
Personal Services Matching				
Operating Expenses				
Conference & Travel Expenses				
Professional Fees				
Capital Outlay				
Data Processing				
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)				
Other: 509:00:05	5,593,296			5,593,296
Other:				
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,593,296</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,593,296</b>

**Funding Percentages**

	Federal	State	Other	Total
FY26	100%			100%
FY27	100%			100%
FY28	100%			100%
FY29	100%			100%
FY30				0%

**Type of Federal Grant**

WIOA \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-WIOA X

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 9/25/2025 - 9/30/2028

--	--

**State Technology Planning** Date


Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted.

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)**

\* unclassified positions only

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Cmnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

**State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.**

Approved by:  12/31/25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Agency Secretary/Director                      Date                      Office of Budget                      Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of Personnel Mgmt                      Date

FY26 REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE REVIEW  
 MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL PROGRAMS ACT  
 (A.C.A. 19-7-101 ET. SEQ.)

**H.2**

NEW PROGRAM

DFA IGS  
 State Technology Planning  
 Agency Request in  
 compliance with IT Plan  
 Certification (if applicable)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant &amp; Funding Percentages</u>	<u>Federal Appropriation Amount Requested</u>	<u>No. of Positions Requested (if any)</u>	<u>DFA - Chief Fiscal Officer</u>		<u>Certification (if applicable)</u>
				<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
2. Department of Agriculture - Maumelle Water Excellence 4	The Department is requesting an appropriation of \$7,000,000. The grant award will be used for acquisition of 1,325 forested acres in the Maumelle Watershed to be held by Central Arkansas Water (CAW). CAW has been determined an eligible recipient of the lands by Forest Legacy Program guidelines and review.	\$7,000,000	0	X		N/A

Funding Percentages

	Federal	State	Other	Total
FY26	75	0	25	100
FY27	75	0	25	100
FY28	75	0	25	100
FY29	75	0	25	100
FY30	75	0	25	100

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: May 13, 2030

**UTILIZATION REPORT  
FOR  
MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
A.C.A. §19-7-501 ET SEQ.**

Date: 9/23/2025 Grant ID: 10.734 Legislative Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency: Arkansas Department of Agriculture Program Title: Maumelle Water Excellence 4

Granting Organization: USDA Forest Service Grant #: 25-DG-11083105-002

Effective Date of Authorization: Beginning: 7/1/2025 Ending: 6/30/2026

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change: (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):  
The Department is requesting an appropriation of \$7,000,000. The grant award will be used for acquisition of 1,325 forested acres in the Maumelle Watershed to be held by Central Arkansas Water (CAW). CAW has been determined an eligible recipient of the lands by Forest Legacy Program guidelines and review.

**Project-Grant Funding**

Business Area Code: 0400  
Funds Center Code: 37X  
Fund Code: FIT1701  
Functional Area Code: COMM

Continuation of Existing Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
Change in Existing Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Program: X

	New Federal Funds	State Matching Funds	Other Matching Funds	Project Total
Regular Salaries				-
Extra Help				-
Personal Services Matching				-
Operating Expenses				-
Conference & Travel Expenses				-
Professional Fees				-
Capital Outlay				-
Data Processing				-
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)				-
Other: 590:00:48	7,000,000		2,333,333	9,333,333
Other:				-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,000,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 2,333,333</b>	<b>\$ 9,333,333</b>

**Funding Percentages**

	Federal	State	Other	Total
FY26	75%		25%	100%
FY27	75%		25%	100%
FY28	75%		25%	100%
FY29	75%		25%	100%
FY30	75%		25%	100%

**Type of Federal Grant**

WIOA \_\_\_\_\_  
Non-WIOA X

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 5/14/2024-5/13/2030

--	--

**State Technology Planning** **Date**

Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted.

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)**

\* unclassified positions only

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Cmnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

**State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.**

Approved by:

Way N. N 11/24/2025  
Agency Secretary/Director Date

Cayce Raney 12/02/25  
Office of Budget Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Office of Personnel Mgmt Date



# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

---

November 20, 2025

## Forest Legacy Program in Arkansas

Forestland in Arkansas decreased by nearly twenty percent (20%) between the 1950s and 1960s. Survey data showed a consistent decrease in Arkansas forests from 20.8 million acres in 1958 to approximately 18 million acres by 1970 to 16.6 million acres by 1978. Since then, Arkansas's forestlands have increased to more than 18.8 million acres, reversing some of the earlier losses. Today, forestlands across the south are at risk of land use conversion and fragmentation.

The Department of Agriculture's contribution to conservation of important forestland to prevent conversion to non-forest uses is primarily accomplished through the federal Forest Legacy Program (FLP). The FLP is a conservation program administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in partnership with state agencies to encourage the conservation of unique privately owned forestlands through conservation easements or land purchases, and to provide the opportunity for continuation of traditional forest uses, such as forest management activities and/or outdoor recreation. The FLP was established in 1990 through an amendment to the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act (CFAA) of 1978, 16 USC 2101 et seq.

FLP selection is a nationally competitive process, and each state can submit up to five (5) new projects for funding consideration annually, not to exceed a total of \$20 million. Project selection is based on USFS's scoring criteria, which includes economic benefits, both timber and potential forest productivity and non-timber products and recreation; public access; wildlife habitat, both threatened or endangered species and fish, wildlife, plants, and unique forest communities; water supply, aquatic habitat, and watershed protection; scenic feature or area; and cultural, historic, or tribal significance. In addition, the forests selected must show a threat to conversion and strategically contribute to other conservation efforts.

The FLP allows both fee-simple land purchases and permanent conservation easements to prevent development of important forest areas. It also aims to prevent fragmentation to ensure the important public benefits that forests provide remain intact. The FLP is implemented as a grant program with state and local government, and FLP acquisitions are funded through a 25 percent (25%) cost share matched grant process. The FLP operates on a willing buyer-willing seller basis, and the FLP cannot use condemnation if negotiation does not result in a mutually acceptable agreement. Arkansas's participation in the FLP began on October 1, 2004, under Governor Mike Huckabee, and the Department of Agriculture (Department) is the lead state agency to oversee FLP administration in Arkansas. The State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC) was established in accordance with Section 19 of the CFAA. The SFSCC created



## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

---

the designated Forest Legacy Areas, in which privately owned property must be located to be eligible for a FLP grant.

SFSCC members must meet the criteria in the USFS's Forest Stewardship Program guidelines. The Arkansas SFSCC members include private forest landowners, state natural resource agencies, federal natural resource agencies, forest industry, non-government natural resource organizations, tribal government (if applicable), land trusts, and other natural resource stakeholders. Individuals currently serving on Arkansas's SFSCC are:

- Kyle Cunningham, Chair, State Forester, Arkansas Department of Agriculture;
- Tate Wentz, Arkansas Department of Agriculture;
- Jennifer Ballard, Director, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission;
- Michael Furr, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission;
- Doug Akin, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Jeff Aish, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- John McAlpine, Kingwood Forestry Services;
- Debbie Moreland, Arkansas Association of Conservation Districts;
- Anna Metrailler, The Nature Conservancy;
- Doug Teale, Domtar;
- Scott Meek, Green Bay Packaging; and
- Bryan Rupar, Central Arkansas Water; *\*recused from 2025 vote*

FLP project type and funding sources vary. Arkansas's FLP project submission for Fiscal Year 2025 is categorized as a large landscape project, which is funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). USFS's timeline for the selection process for IRA-funded projects is as follows:

- March 14, 2025: Project proposals due to the Department. Department received one proposal from Central Arkansas Water;
- May 27, 2025: The Department submitted project proposals to USFS Region 8;
- June 6, 2025: USFS Region 8 sent a project list, state matrix, and project brief to the USFS office in Washington, DC (WO);
- June 11-12, 2025: National FLP Review Panel Meeting convened to review project proposals and develop a National Project List.
- August 1, 2025: USFS leadership made grant award recommendations based on the National Project List to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Each Region issued project-specific grants to State lead agencies for funding in accordance with the final project list.

The grant period of each FLP IRA award is five years. Forest Legacy grants can only be used to purchase tracts approved in this ranking process. Once the approved tracts are purchased, any remaining funds from the grant can be used to purchase additional



## ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

---

tracts within the project area that are in line with the proposal and are approved by the SFSCC/USFS.

Purchases using FLP funds contain disposition clauses in the deed. In the event FLP funded property is sold, the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture has discretion over the disposal, and the USFS is reimbursed based on the percentage it contributed at the time of purchase.

Since 2005, Arkansas has received \$32,784,185 in Forest Legacy funds and protected 26,656.64 acres in five (5) project areas. Attached to this report as **Exhibit A** is a list of Forest Legacy purchases since 2005. Currently there are two active Forest Legacy project areas in Arkansas: Hot Springs State Forest (HSSF) and Maumelle Water Excellence.

An explanation of the Maumelle Water Excellence is included as **Exhibit B**. The remainder of the project is pending approval from the US Forest Service.

The current request for legislative appropriation is to fund the acquisition of land located in the Lake Maumelle Watershed as part of the FLP. The appropriation will allow the Department to provide pass-through funding to an escrow account that will ultimately benefit Central Arkansas Water (CAW) for the purchase of 1,325 acres of land located in Pulaski and Perry counties a total cost of \$9,333,333. Funds will go to an escrow account and then on to CAW as the beneficiary. The acquisition tract is labeled as "CREEKS Tract" and highlighted in orange in the map attached to this report as **Exhibit C**. The acquisition tract is currently owned by PotlatchDeltic Timber Company, and annual property taxes based on 2025 tax estimates are: \$1,995 for Pulaski County; and \$48 for Perry County.

The purpose for the CAW purchase is to protect the drinking water for the Little Rock area, maintain productive timberlands, and provide recreational opportunities to people in Perry and Pulaski Counties for the future.

According to CAW's Chief Operating Officer, CAW is a municipal water utility created through interlocal agreement and governed by municipal codes and state law specific to Little Rock and North Little Rock. CAW operates under the authority granted by the Consolidated Waterworks Authorization Act, Arkansas Code § 25-20-301, et seq., and Little Rock City Code § 35-26. CAW's Board of Commissioners consists of seven members, appointed and confirmed by the governing bodies of both cities, and has full authority to manage, operate, and maintain the water system. As a governmental entity, CAW is permitted to participate in the FLP and hold title to land purchased through FLP. The program implementation guidelines require CAW to manage its land in a manner consistent with the purposes of FLP and in accordance with the terms specified in the conservation easement and Multi-Resource Management Plan.

For purposes of the acquisition, the Department's contact at CAW is Bryan Rugar, [bryan.rugar@carkw.com](mailto:bryan.rugar@carkw.com).





# ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

---

## Funding to CAW from the Department:

Since the Forest Legacy Program started in Arkansas, CAW has received the following:

Year	Amount	Acres	County
2012	\$9,000,000.00	741	Pulaski
2023	\$600,000.00	56	Pulaski
2023	\$815,000.00	163	Pulaski
2024	\$412,032.00	53	Pulaski
2024	\$9,344,888.00	1965	Perry
	<b>\$20,171,920.00</b>	<b>2,978</b>	

Additionally, Central Arkansas Water has received funding from the Arkansas Natural Resources Division through grants and loans for water/wastewater projects. Projects date back to 2020 and are attached as **Exhibit D** and summarized below:

Grant amount to CAW:	\$10,317,361.00
Loan amount to CAW:	\$286,197,362.98
<b>Total Grants and Loans:</b>	<b>\$296,514,723.98</b>

Central Arkansas Water was also awarded a grant through the Forestry Division for participation in the Southern Pine Beetle Prevention Program for fiscal years 2022 and 2025. This program is a cost-share program that is designed to help landowners thin overstocked pine stands to mitigate the risk of southern pine beetle outbreaks. CAW was awarded a total of \$19,912.54.

Forest Legacy 2005 to Date

Exhibit A

Arkansas Department of Agriculture Land Acquisitions

Tract Name	Value	Funding Source	Current Owner	Acquired	Acres	Running Total Acres	Running Total \$	County
Moro Big Pine	\$6,935,234.00	2007 Forest Legacy, Game & Fish, ANCRC	AR Game & Fish, PotlatchDeltic Inc., AR Natural Heritage	1/30/2009	15,923.00	15,923.00	\$6,935,234.00	Calhoun
Initiative #2	\$196,672.86	2009 Forest Legacy	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission	3/10/2009	145.00	16,068.00	\$7,131,906.86	Drew
Initiative #1	\$2,060,000.00	2009 Forest Legacy & ANCRC	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission	4/30/2010	2,107.00	18,175.00	\$9,191,906.86	Drew
Canterbury	\$9,000,000.00	2012 Forest Legacy & Central Arkansas Water	Central Arkansas Water	12/26/2012	741.00	18,916.00	\$18,191,906.86	Pulaski
Hazel Creek	\$1,350,000.00	2017 Forest Legacy and ANCRC	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission	1/27/2017	937.00	19,853.00	\$19,541,906.86	Drew
Cox, Simpson, Caring Place, Church of Nazarene	\$822,588.65	2018 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	5/16/2018	360.83	20,213.83	\$20,364,495.51	Garland
PotlatchDeltic	\$975,943.62	2019 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	1/6/2020	287.82	20,501.65	\$21,340,439.13	Garland
Right-of-Way transfer to ARDOT	-\$144,575.00	ARDOT	ARDOT	3/13/2020	-23.60	20,478.05	\$21,195,864.13	Garland
Gulpha Saddle, Indian Mountain SW & NE	\$1,463,545.68	2019 Forest Legacy	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	5/21/2020	406.66	20,884.71	\$22,659,409.81	Garland
BW Vacations, Richter, Suburban	\$588,320.68	2020 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	5/21/2020	123.07	21,007.78	\$23,247,730.49	Garland
Cost Share portion of The Nature's Edge	\$539,919.02	2020 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	6/19/2020	107.88	21,115.66	\$23,787,649.51	Garland
Towering Peaks (2022 CS)	\$477,308.90	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	11/6/2020	108.47	21,224.13	\$24,264,958.41	Garland
Tenmile Creek	\$1,239,714.65	2020 Forest Legacy and ANCRC	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission	11/30/2020	636.30	21,860.43	\$25,504,673.06	Drew
Forest Legacy portion of The Nature's Edge	\$1,817,312.76	2020 Forest Legacy and 2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	12/18/2020	386.99	22,247.42	\$27,321,985.82	Garland
Roman (2023 CS)	\$207,001.85	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	2/24/2021	46.96	22,294.38	\$27,528,987.67	Garland
Proctor (2023 CS)	\$199,333.58	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	3/31/2021	44.17	22,338.55	\$27,728,321.25	Garland
Graves West (2023 CS)	\$117,179.56	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	9/10/2021	19.52	22,358.07	\$27,845,500.81	Garland
Merrit (2023 CS)	\$79,000.00	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	9/10/2021	13.10	22,371.17	\$27,924,500.81	Garland
Walker (2023 CS)	\$40,000.00	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	9/10/2021	9.81	22,380.98	\$27,964,500.81	Garland
Tittle (2023 CS)	\$16,000.00	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	9/10/2021	5.00	22,385.98	\$27,980,500.81	Garland
North Woods (2023 CS)	\$36,000.00	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	9/10/2021	5.15	22,391.13	\$28,016,500.81	Garland
Parker (2023 CS)	\$26,000.00	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	9/10/2021	7.43	22,398.56	\$28,042,500.81	Garland
East BWV (2023 CS)	\$16,000.00	2021 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	9/10/2021	2.41	22,400.97	\$28,058,500.81	Garland
Tenmile Creek Addition	\$196,672.86	2016/2020 Forest Legacy and 2020 ANCRC	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission	9/29/2021	85.00	22,485.97	\$28,255,173.67	Drew
Graves (2023 CS)	\$292,353.34	2022 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	11/8/2021	48.63	22,534.60	\$28,547,527.01	Garland
Lopez East	\$416,288.50	2021 FLP	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	12/22/2021	80.00	22,614.60	\$28,963,815.51	Garland
Wootten (2023 CS)	\$320,444.13	2022 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	3/18/2022	80.00	22,694.60	\$29,284,259.64	Garland
Lopez West	\$360,413.00	2021 FLP	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	6/24/2022	75.00	22,769.60	\$29,644,672.64	Garland
Lopez West Mine	\$24,444.52	2022 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	6/24/2022	5.00	22,774.60	\$29,669,117.16	Garland
Chaffin (2024 CS)	\$71,442.71	2022 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	6/24/2022	10.90	22,785.50	\$29,740,559.87	Garland
Wyatt (2024 CS)	\$94,440.83	2022 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	7/15/2022	10.87	22,796.37	\$29,835,000.70	Garland
Deltic NE and Deltic NW	\$2,570,000.00	2022 FLP	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	9/27/2022	735.04	23,531.41	\$32,405,000.70	Garland
Partis	\$175,055.00	2022 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	12/15/2022	18.26	23,549.67	\$32,580,055.70	Garland
Lynchard	\$370,403.38	2022 and 2023 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	5/26/2023	37.51	23,587.18	\$32,950,459.08	Garland
Falls 2 CS	\$600,000.00	2024 Forest Legacy & Central Arkansas Water	Central Arkansas Water	7/5/2023	56.00	23,643.18	\$33,550,459.08	Pulaski
Falls 4 CS	\$815,000.00	2024 Forest Legacy & Central Arkansas Water	Central Arkansas Water	7/5/2023	163.00	23,806.18	\$34,365,459.08	Pulaski
Blees	\$263,000.00	2023 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	7/21/2023	22.85	23,829.03	\$34,628,459.08	Garland
Blankenship	\$84,448.00	2023 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	1/26/2024	9.90	23,838.93	\$34,712,907.08	Garland
Suburban	\$287,789.51	2023 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	2/2/2024	29.21	23,868.14	\$35,000,696.59	Garland
Yother	\$38,396.64	2023 ANCRC	AR Department of Agriculture - Hot Springs State Forest	4/19/2024	4.50	23,872.64	\$35,039,093.23	Garland
Falls 1 CS	\$412,032.00	2024 Forest Legacy & Central Arkansas Water	Central Arkansas Water	6/27/2024	53.00	23,925.64	\$35,451,125.23	Pulaski
Falls 3	\$9,344,888.00	2024 Forest Legacy & Central Arkansas Water	Central Arkansas Water	6/27/2024	1,965.00	25,890.64	\$44,796,013.23	Perry
White River Headwaters Preserve	\$1,706,247.00	2023 Forest Legacy, NWALT, TCF	Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission	12/5/2024	766.00	26,656.64	\$46,502,260.23	Madison

Central Arkansas Water Purchases to Date \$20,171,920.00

Pending Purchase

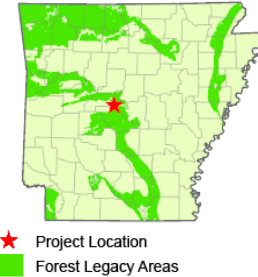
Tract Name	Value	Funding Source	Current Owner	Purchase Date	Acres	Running Total Acres	Running Total \$	County
Maumelle Water Excellence 4	\$9,333,333.00	2025 Forest Legacy & Central Arkansas Water	PotlatchDeltic	CY 2026	1,325.00	27,981.64	\$55,835,593.23	Perry, Pulaski

# Forest Legacy IRA Project Maumelle Water Excellence 4 Pulaski, Perry, and Saline counties Arkansas



## FUNDING HISTORY

FY 2025 Forest Legacy Program Funding	\$14,000,000
FY 2025 Non-Federal Cost Share	\$5,500,000
FY 2025 Project Costs	\$19,500,000
FY 2025 Project Acres	3,471
Forest Legacy Funding To Date	\$0
Total Project Costs	\$19,500,000
Total Project Acres	3,471



Tract Name	Size (ac)	Tract Cost	FLP Funding	Non-Fed Cost Share	Status
STREAMS	3,471	\$19,500,000	\$14,000,000	\$5,500,000	Proposed 2025

## GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Lake Maumelle in Central Arkansas is a blue gem boasting some of the nation's best drinking water. The lake's forested headwaters originate in the Ouachita National Forest (ONF) and serve as the water source to 500,000 people in and around Little Rock. These rich forests of short-leaf pine, oak, and hickory are a critical feature to Central Arkansas Water's (CAW) watershed protection plan. Due to significant development pressure, areas abutting the ONF are being sold and subdivided, threatening the scenic landscape and drinking water quality/quantity. STREAMS tract builds on previous awards creating a contiguous forested conservation corridor from Central Arkansas to Oklahoma. CAW is pioneering new models to deliver protection at scale, like leveraging bonds against federal grants to protect forests for water quality, allocating match support for FLP projects and being the first to certify all utility forests under the SFI® management standard. STREAMS tract protects 12 miles of forested buffer along major tributaries of the Maumelle River, and results in the protection of 48% of the watershed (3.9% increase toward goal of 70%); ensuring that future generations of Arkansans have safe, affordable, and reliable drinking water.



Hiker on the Ouachita National Recreational Trail. (Photo by Mike Unger Treelinerreview.com)

## PROJECT FEATURES

### Important

- CAW ECONOMIC BENEFITS FROM TIMBER AND POTENTIAL FOREST PRODUCTIVITY - CAW is the world's first and only water utility certified by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) and is committed to managing these lands to those standards and maintaining certification (15,518 ac certified).
- STREAMS tract is composed of productive loblolly pine (median site index of 75) and mixed hardwood stands. This forest supplies pulpwood and sawlogs to 11 large mills within 50 miles of the project, including the new Mercer Mass Timber mill in Conway, Arkansas which maintains 130 new jobs.

- In addition to protection from development, CAW's management will optimize water quality, timber production, and forest health. CAW will restore 3,000 acres of non-native pine plantations to native, upland shortleaf pine/mixed hardwood forests, reducing wildfire risk.
- **ECONOMIC BENEFITS NON-TIMBER PRODUCTS/RECREATION** – Project protects wild and scenic habitat critical to established local economy. The nearby CAW trail at Bufflehead Bay along Highway 10 sees an average of 600 visitors a month and is a popular birding spot listed on eBird and ARBird.



*New construction adjacent to STREAMS tract and plantation silviculture. (Photo by Bryan Rupar)*

- STREAMS increases access to outdoor recreation, another key economic driver for the region. A Tourism Industry 2022 report showed Arkansas' recreation economy supports 97,800 jobs and adds \$15.7 B to GDP (11.5% of total GDP). The 3-county Project area had \$2 B of tourism expenditures in 2022.
- STREAMS will secure 3,471 acres for hiking, hunting, and fishing. In 2023, Pinnacle Mountain State Park (contiguous conservation ownership) estimated nearly 700,000 visitors recreated at the park, hundreds of hunters on the WMA, and ~2,000 boats launch from the lake's marina each year.
- STREAMS will protect fishing tributaries; local anglers spend \$63K annually on supplies, lodging, and meals. Collegiate and high school fishing tournaments and the white bass run account for 3,150 angler days per year. Leading the nation per capita, an Arkansas resident fishes 28 days per year
- Since 2020, CAW's dependable source water has helped attract 9 new manufacturing or distribution facilities and supported 24 different economic development expansion, creating 10,638 jobs in the CAW service area.
- Companies rely on CAW's high-quality, abundant water for critical operations like cooling, cleaning, and food production, helping reduce costs and meet production standards. This has made CAW a partner in regional economic development, contributing over \$3.1 billion in economic impact since 2015.
- **THREATENED/ENDANGERED SPECIES HABITAT** - No formal surveys conducted, but tracts contain suitable habitat for listed -endangered Indiana & northern long-eared bats, and proposed Tricolored Bat. Monarch butterfly and Alligator Snapping Turtle (proposed threatened) are present on adjacent tracts.
- The Arkansas Wildlife Action Plan notes that this Project area provides habitat for 11 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN), including several aquatic species and these top priority birds: wood thrush, purple finch, American kestrel, northern bobwhite quail, and yellow billed cuckoo.
- The targeted tracts are known to support two species of state and/or global conservation concern, Willdenow's sedge and Leafy Barbara's-buttons. The tracts contain suitable habitat for additional species known from adjacent lands, but formal botanical surveys have not been conducted.
- 40% of all North American waterfowl and shorebirds use the Mississippi Flyway, and Lake Maumelle watershed serves as an integral stopover for these migratory species, which include all four species of North American loons.
- The watershed is located in the Ouachita Mountain Ecoregion, which is ranked the 3rd highest ecoregion in Arkansas in need for conservation, according to The Nature Conservancy, for its high number of SGCN. The threat of forest conversion makes this a vulnerable area for species loss.
- **WATER SUPPLY, AQUATIC HABITAT, WATERSHED PROTECTION** – Lake Maumelle supplies drinking water to 500,000 people in 18 cities/communities including Little Rock. CAW's watershed protection efforts impact over 16.5 billion gallons per year.
- **CANTERBURY (FLP FY12)** increased overall protection of the watershed by 0.85% (741 acres), adding 4 miles of riparian buffer. Since the 2012 award, CAW has protected an additional 7.1% (6,245 acres) including the **FALLS (FLP FY24)**. STREAMS will add an additional 3.9% (3,471 acres), of conserved lands.

- Protecting Maumelle River tributaries is a critical strategy to meeting the regulatory provisions under the Safe Drinking Water and Clean Water Acts. STREAMS will increase this protection by an additional 11.8 miles of tributaries including Bringle Creek, Red Bluff Branch, and Patterson Branch.
- STREAMS increases critical buffer width by a over a half mile buffer on the Maumelle River, and other influential tributaries like Bringle Creek and Yount Creek. It also protects several tracked species of freshwater mussels and aquatic plants found in the unique river-scour habitats.
- PUBLIC ACCESS - STREAMS will add 3,471 acres to the Maumelle River Wildlife Management Area (12,133 acres of land) improving access to and expanding recreational opportunities on existing Arkansas public lands. It connects existing landlocked public land to major roadways via the National Forest.
- SCENIC - STREAMS acquires 0.5 miles of the 223-mile multi-state Ouachita National Recreational Trail (ONRT) which hosts over 20,000 hikers annually. After this purchase, only 2 miles of the entire trail remain in private ownership.

## Threatened

- LACK OF PROTECTION – 13% of the STREAMS tract does not have any zoning or open space requirements for stormwater mitigation/limits. The remaining 87% have the least restrictive private land zoning designation (low impact), the ordinance allows subdivisions and onsite wastewater systems.
- These unprotected forests prevent large amounts of sediment and nutrients from entering the lake. Studies show that for every 10% increase in forest cover in a watershed, there is a 20% decrease in downstream water treatment costs due to forests serving as filters and sponges.
- LAND AND LANDOWNER CIRCUMSTANCES – Owned by PotlatchDeltic (PCH), one of the top 10 lumber producers in the US, their real estate development program identified over 120,000 acres of rural timberland that "is no longer strategic to their timber operations" including portions of the STREAMS tract.
- PCH sold 107 parcels in Pulaski Co. in 2020 alone in addition to 2 parcels (60 acres) in Perry Co. in 2021, which were targeted in CAW's FY22 FLP request and are now conservation inholdings. The volume of transactions reflects the high demand to convert working forests to residential developments.
- A PCH 2020 Report stated they are promoting two of their real estate development projects- Chenal Valley (just east of watershed in Pulaski County) and Red Oak Ridge in Hot Springs (SW of watershed)- as part of their land stratification strategy to increase value for their shareholders.
- ADJACENT LAND USE - Lakeview West (see picture). Real estate developers own over 2,700 acres in the watershed (additional 2,800 acres adjacent), including land adjacent to STREAMS tract. In the past five years they have begun seven new development phases within the Lake Maumelle Watershed.
- The Little Rock Metropolitan Statistical Area population grew 6.8% from 2010 to 2020, exceeding the state average of 3.3%. This growth is affecting CAW: local rural real estate markets have boomed due to employees leaving the urban environment in favor of remote working conditions.
- Significant development pressures within the watershed over the past 20 years contributes to nutrient and pollutant loading (increased runoff). Forecasts from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development anticipate above average housing growth westward from Pulaski County into Perry County.
- ABILITY TO DEVELOP - An appraisal of STREAMS tract confirmed several tracts are highly vulnerable to development with their "highest and best use" values significantly above timber values. STREAMS has well developed road systems and access to electricity, high-speed internet, and potable water.



Lakeview West, a new development on Lake Maumelle adjacent to targeted tract. (Photo by Bryan Ruper)

- The watershed, including STREAMS tracts, contains construction ready plateaus and secluded ravines, making lots highly desirable with pristine, residential lake views. A 30-minute commute to Little Rock fuels demand for this desirable location to full time, retirement, and recreational residents.

## Strategic

- CONSERVATION STRATEGY - FEDERAL - Acquisition of the STREAMS tract complements Ouachita National Forest's (ONF) FY24 CDF award and previous LWCF proposal (FY23) to acquire an additional 7,516 acres to protect 11.3 miles of the Maumelle River headwaters and tributaries in the watershed and remove a large private inholding from the National Forest, creating contiguous forest protection.
- This FLP project supports goals of the USDA Forest Service and the ONF Revised Forest Plan to manage the 223-mile multi-state Ouachita National Recreational Trail (ONRT). The STREAMS tract includes 0.5 miles of the final 2.5 miles still in private ownership. An ONRT spur trail connects to Lake Sylvia, a state managed campground on the ONF, building on federal and state recreation investments.
- CAW participates in the Shortleaf Pine Initiative (2013) with key federal, state, and private partners with the goal of restoring shortleaf pine forests. Targeted tracts will add an additional 3,000 acres for shortleaf restoration, a scale which complements ONF's existing 250,000 acres of Pine-Bluestem Forest in their 2005 Forest Management Plan and increases forest resiliency to disturbances.
- The project builds on FLP investment of \$10M that protected 2,762 acres, STREAMS will extend protection westward up the Maumelle River corridor to adjoin the ONF and bring the total acres conserved in partnership with Forest Legacy to 6,233 acres. This compliments a nearby US Army Corp of Engineers \$2.8M Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Project along the Maumelle River.
- CONSERVATION STRATEGY - REGIONAL - CAW lands are proactively managed in accordance to TNC's multi-state Ouachita Ecosystem Plan, which includes prescribed fire for promoting native fire-dependent systems and mitigating against catastrophic wildfires. The STREAMS tract is currently being managed with an absent fire regime and non-native species, two threats identified in the plan.
- CONSERVATION STRATEGY, INITIATIVE OR PLAN - STATE: The top priority in the Statewide Forest Action Plan (FAP) for the Little Rock-Hot Springs Forest Legacy Area is to protect forested riparian zones and watersheds from forest conversions. Lake Maumelle watershed is recognized as a priority watershed in the FAP and a Forest Of Recognized Importance in the Arkansas Tree Farm Program.
- These tracts are in the 32,000-acre Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area, a partnership of state agencies, CAW, and NGO's to cohesively manage natural resources with recreational interests. The Recreational Vision Master Plan (publishing in 2025) provides a unified vision and direction for balancing conservation of the natural realm with the recreation needs of Central Arkansas residents.
- CONSERVATION STRATEGY- As a cost-effective alternative to regulatory controls, CAW's 2007 Lake Maumelle Watershed Management Plan combines land acquisition/management techniques to protect Lake Maumelle and decrease municipal water treatment costs. STREAMS will build upon this success by increasing the protected watershed to 48%, building on \$46.9 Million of non-federal investments since 2007.



*Development pressure as urban sprawl (red) expands into Lake Maumelle Watershed (Photo by Google Earth and Ben Thesing)*

- CAW issued the first in the world certified green bond in 2020 to acquire and protect forests specifically to support clean drinking water, garnering international attention from media outlets. This bond provided \$10.3 million for land acquisition (match for FY 23 FALLS), creating an innovative model for source water protection at scale. A similar model may provide match for the STREAMS tract.
- COMPLEMENTS PROTECTED LANDS – STREAMS closes the gap in a 140-mile continuous conservation corridor of public lands from central Arkansas to Oklahoma, providing physical connectivity among TNC Preserves, Lake Sylvia and Pinnacle Mountain State Park, Rattlesnake Ridge/Blue Mountain Natural Areas, Maumelle River Wildlife Management Area, and the Ouachita National Forest.

### Special Emphasis Criteria

- High Impact-Companies rely on CAW's high-quality, abundant water for critical operations like cooling, cleaning, and food production, helping reduce costs and meet production standards. This has made CAW a partner in regional economic development, contributing over \$3.1 billion in economic impact since 2015.
- High Impact- STREAMS provides a generational opportunity to conserve property needed to maintain safe, abundant drinking water resources for future Arkansans. This also creates public recreation lands near large urban popular centers, in an area known as the Maumelle Pinnacles Conservation Area, where public landowners are releasing a master plan in 2025 for a unified conservation vision.
- National Goals-STREAMS tract contributes to Habitat Connectivity, by physically connecting ownership of the ONF, to CAW's core land holdings around Lake Maumelle. This also physically connects to other state-owned lands by The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission, Arkansas State Parks, and to land owned by The Nature Conservancy.
- Higher Leverage-As with past projects, CAW is willing to commit more than the required 25% match. For the FALLS tract (FLP FY24), CAW contributed 35% cost share on the federally funded tract and funded an additional cost share tract at \$1.65 million, for a total project non-federal cost share of 45%. This is indicative of the high level of support CAW is willing to provide to these projects.
- Efficiency of Scale-Purchasing STREAMS as a large timberland transaction allows for a reduced price per acre and allows for better negotiating with PotlatchDeltic over buying it one parcel at a time. CAW has purchased parcels adjacent to those sold to private individuals at fraction of the cost.
- High readiness and capacity-CAW has demonstrated its ability to successfully implement previous grant awards with this landowner. CAW has the bond service capacity to provide any matching funds as well as any additional funds that may be required for unexpected contingencies. CAW has staffing capacity (currently 7 dedicated Full-time positions in Watershed Management) to complete this transaction.
- Stewardship capacity- CAW has continued to increase its capacity for managing property since the adoption of the Watershed Protection Fee in 2008. Every CAW metered customer is charged a small fee (residential meters are \$0.90/month) to fund stewardship of CAW land in our watersheds. CAW staff, partners, and contractors burned 3,312 acres in the last Rx fire season on watershed properties.

### Readiness

Easement or Fee Conditions	1
Non-Federal Cost Share Commitment	1
Signed Purchase Agreement	0
Title Search	1
Mineral Determination	1
<b>Readiness Total Tally Score</b>	<b>4</b>

### Supporting Parties

Arkansas Office of Outdoor Recreation; United States DOI Fish and Wildlife Service-AR Field Office; Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission; World Resources Institute; U.S. Endowment for Forestry and

Communities; American Water Works Association; Arkansas Game and Fish Commission; U.S. Senator John Boozman; U.S. Senator Tom Cotton; U.S. Representative French Hill; Ouachita National Forest; Audubon Delta; Arkansas Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers; Arkansas Forests and Drinking Water Collaborative; Arkansas Natural Resource Division-Arkansas Department of Agriculture; and Arkansas Forestry Association.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

**Scott Stewart**

*National Forest Legacy  
Program Coordinator*  
USDA Forest Service  
1400 Independence Avenue,  
3SC  
Washington, DC 20250  
202-205-1618  
[scott.stewart@usda.gov](mailto:scott.stewart@usda.gov)

**Andrew Fotinos**

*Forest Legacy Program Leader*  
USDA Forest Service  
1720 Peachtree Road, NW  
Suite 700  
Atlanta, GA 30309  
540-240-6532  
[andrew.fotinos@usda.gov](mailto:andrew.fotinos@usda.gov)

**Jim Jolley**

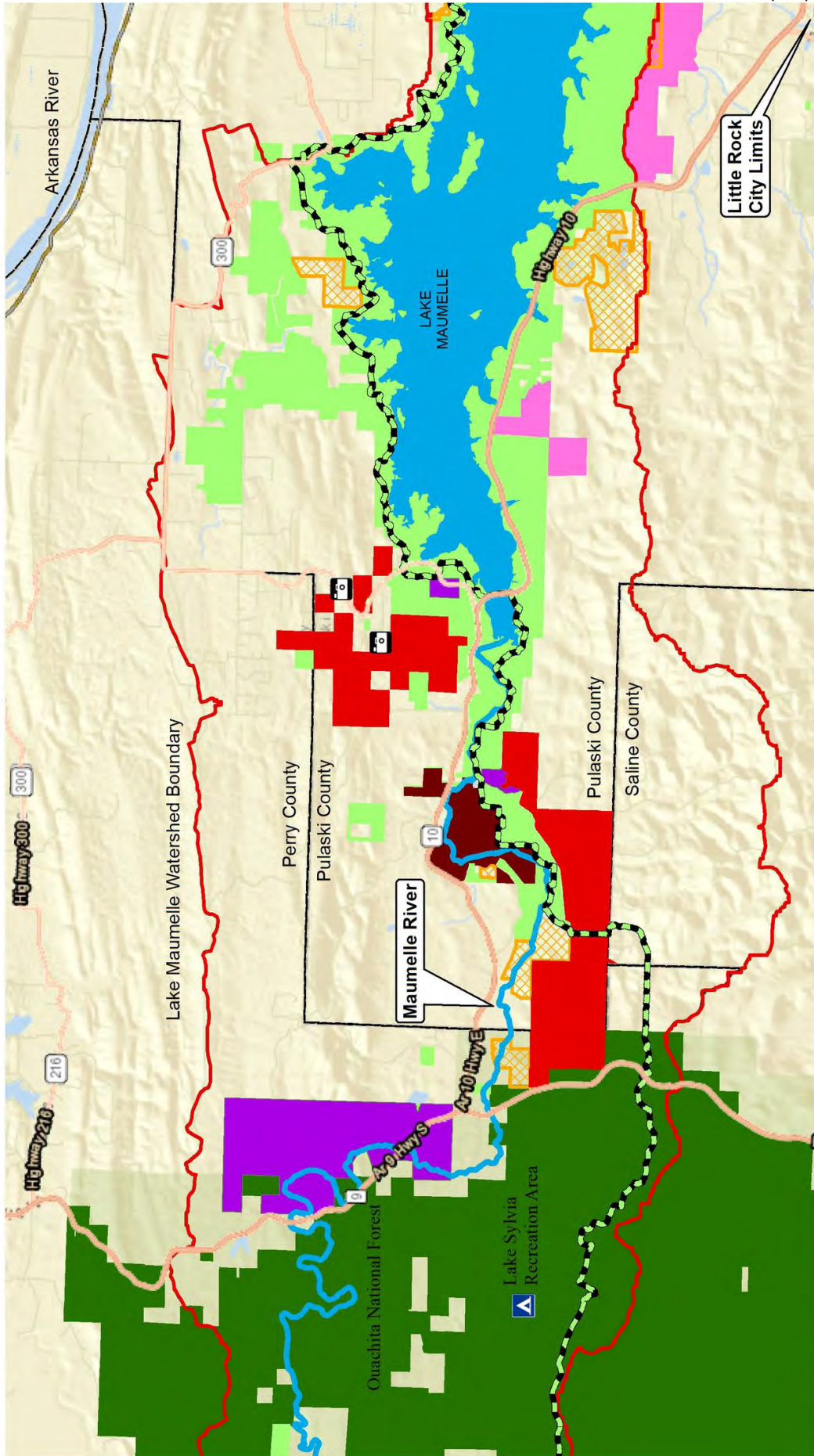
*Forest Legacy/GIS Coordinator*  
Arkansas Department of  
Agriculture, Forestry Division  
1 Natural Resources Drive  
Little Rock, AR 72205  
501-580-8956  
[jim.jolley@agriculture.arkansas.gov](mailto:jim.jolley@agriculture.arkansas.gov)







# Maumelle Water Excellence Forest Legacy Streams Tract - ~3,471 Acres



	STREAMS Tract - 3,471 Acres		Ouachita National Forest
	FLP FY23 (CAW FEE Owned)		Development Photos
	FLP FY12 (CAW FEE Owned)		State Owned Lands
	Lake Maumelle Watershed		County
	Ouachita National Rec Trail		Conservation Easement
	Conservation Easement		CAW Fee Ownership
	CAW Fee Ownership		



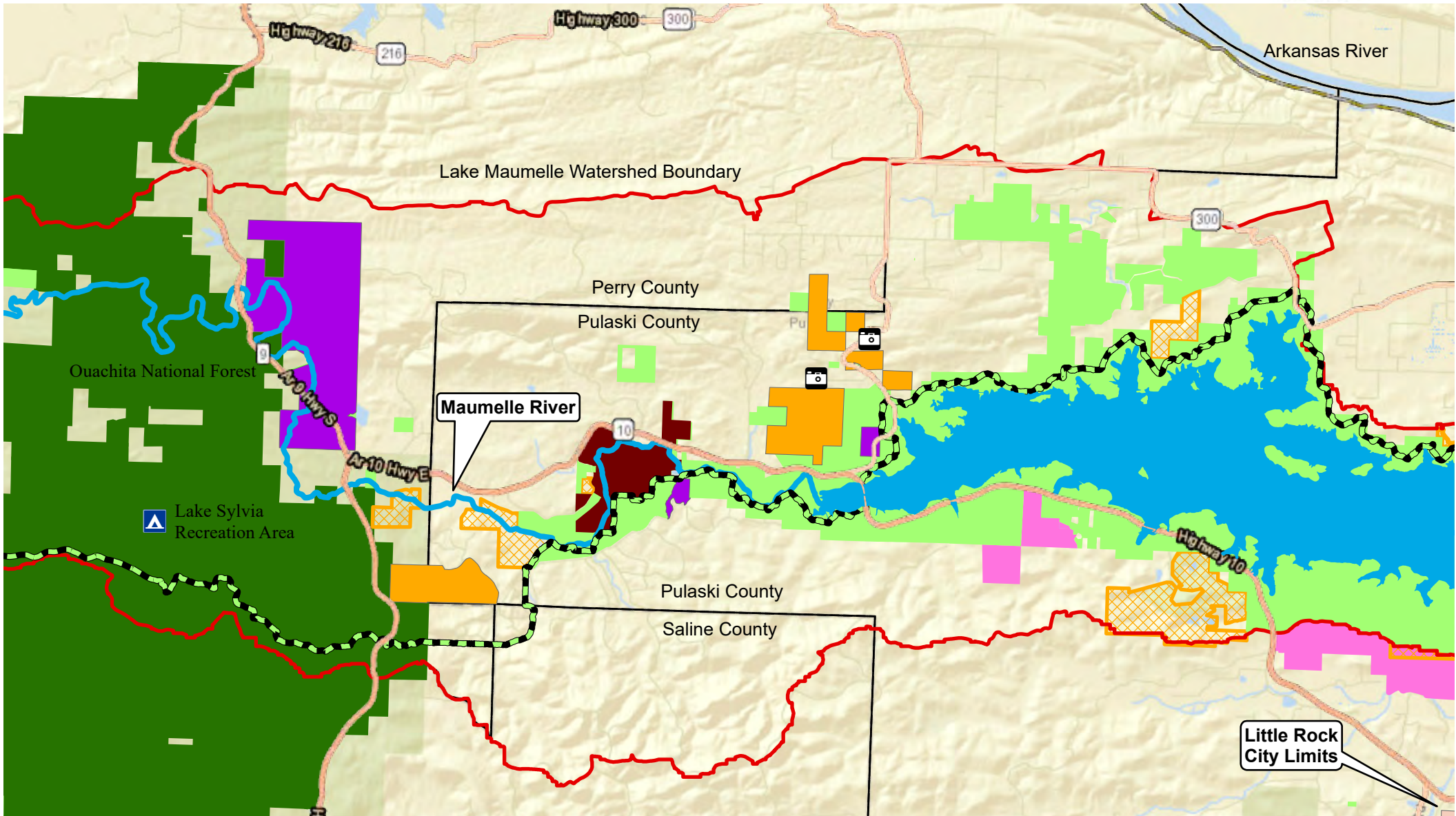


# Maumelle Water Excellence Forest Legacy Creeks Tract - ~1,325 Acres

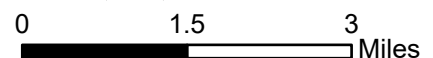
Exhibit C



FORESTRY DIVISION



- CREEKS Tract - 1,325 acres
- FLP FY23 (CAW FEE Owned)
- FLP FY12 (CAW FEE Owned)
- Lake Maumelle Watershed
- Ouachita National Rec Trail
- Conservation Easement
- CAW Fee Ownership
- Ouachita National Forest
- Development Photos
- State Owned Lands
- County



**GRANT**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Project</b>
01340-WDF-G	05/26/2021	Water Development Fund	\$ 17,361.00	Central Ark Water Frazier Pike Public Facilities
01372-WSSW-G	12/15/2021	Water Sewer Solid Waste	\$ 300,000.00	CAW-Perla - Initial Water & WW System study/repair
02058-ARPA-G	12/02/2022	ARPA Funding	\$ 5,000,000.00	CAW #11 West Pulaski
02203-ARPA-G	12/02/2022	ARPA Funding	\$ 5,000,000.00	Wrightsville Wastewater Consolidation with CAW
<b>Total Grants:</b>			<b>\$ 10,317,361.00</b>	

**LOAN**

<b>Number</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Project</b>
01263-DWSRF-L	01/16/2020	Drinking Water	\$ 4,748,409.98	CAW#6- Paron Owensville (POWA)
01341-DWSRF-L	05/26/2021	Drinking Water	\$ 16,300,000.00	CAW #11 West Pulaski
01342-DWSRF-F	05/26/2021	Drinking Water	\$ 2,200,000.00	CAW #11 West Pulaski
01343-DWSRF-F	05/26/2021	Drinking Water	\$ 1,200,000.00	CAW #10 - West Pulaski Service Line LMI
01358-DWSRF-L	07/21/2021	Drinking Water	\$ 1,383,953.00	Central Arkansas Water - Wye Mountian
01357-DWSRF-L	07/21/2021	Drinking Water	\$ 1,757,000.00	CAW - Ridgefield
01378-DWSRF-L	03/16/2022	Drinking Water	\$ 78,750.00	Perla Meters
01380-DWSRF-L	06/01/2022	Drinking Water	\$ 4,000,000.00	CAW 9 - Jack Wilson Phase II
02408-DW-L	06/22/2023	Drinking Water	\$ 350,000.00	CAW - Perla Distribution System Rehab 2023
02409-DW-F	06/22/2023	Drinking Water	\$ 1,050,000.00	CAW - Perla Distribution System Rehab 2023
02331-CW-L	06/22/2023	Clean Water	\$ 10,893,000.00	Wrightsville Wastewater Consolidation with CAW
02238-DW-L	06/22/2023	Drinking Water	\$ 11,000,000.00	CAW #10-Plan and Design for Jack Wilson Resiliency
02239-DW-F	06/22/2023	Drinking Water	\$ 236,250.00	Perla Meters
02393-DW-L	09/22/2023	Drinking Water	\$ 230,000,000.00	CAW-Wilson WTP Renewal and Resiliency-2023
02467-DW-L	01/17/2024	Drinking Water	\$ 1,000,000.00	CAW-LCRR Compliance-2024
<b>Total Loans:</b>			<b>\$ 286,197,362.98</b>	

**Grand Total Grants & Loans: \$ 296,514,723.98**

# H.3

FY26 REQUEST FOR LEGISLATIVE REVIEW  
 MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL PROGRAMS ACT  
 (A.C.A. 19-7-101 ET. SEQ.)

NEW PROGRAM

DFA IGS  
 State Technology Planning  
 Agency Request in  
 compliance with IT Plan  
 Certification (if applicable)

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Purpose of Grant &amp; Funding Percentages</u>	<u>Federal Appropriation Amount Requested</u>	<u>No. of Positions Requested (if any)</u>	<u>DFA - Chief Fiscal Officer</u>		<u>State Technology Planning Agency Request in compliance with IT Plan Certification (if applicable)</u>
				<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	
3. Department of Finance and Administration - Disbursing Officer - Rural Health Transformation Program	Arkansas has been awarded \$208 million for federal fiscal year 2026 through the federal Rural Health Transformation Program administered by CMS and authorized by the One Big Beautiful Bill. Similar amounts are expected to be awarded to Arkansas in each of the federal fiscal years 2027-2030. Arkansas must spend its award in accordance with the federal authorizing statute and its plan submitted to and approved by CMS. Grant funds will be used to fund subawards to strengthen and modernize Arkansas's health care system by addressing healthcare workforce shortages, chronic disease monitoring and management, facility and technological improvements, including telemedicine infrastructure, emergency transport and treatment, behavioral and mental health needs, food as medicine, financial sustainability, and educational initiatives. This initial appropriation covers only administrative expenses necessary to establish the program.	\$6,350,000	0	X		N/A
		Funding Percentages				
			Federal	State	Other	Total
		FY26	100	0	0	100
		FY27	100	0	0	100
		FY28	100	0	0	100
		FY29	100	0	0	100
		FY30	100	0	0	100

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: October 30, 2030

**UTILIZATION REPORT  
FOR  
MISCELLANEOUS FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM APPROPRIATION  
AND PERSONNEL AUTHORIZATION REQUEST  
A.C.A. §19-7-501 ET SEQ.**

Date: 12/29/2025 Grant ID 93.798 Legislative Review Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Agency: Department of Finance and Administration Disbursing Officer Program Title: Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP)  
 Granting Organization: Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services Grant #: RHTCMS332061-01-00  
 Effective Date of Authorization: \_\_\_\_\_ Beginning: 07/01/2025 Ending: 06/30/2026

Purpose of Grant / Reason for addition or change: (include attachments as necessary to provide thorough information):

Arkansas has been awarded \$208 million for federal fiscal year 2026 through the federal Rural Health Transformation Program administered by CMS and authorized by the One Big Beautiful Bill. Similar amounts are expected to be awarded to Arkansas in each of the federal fiscal years 2027-2030. Arkansas must spend its award in accordance with the federal authorizing statute and its plan submitted to and approved by CMS. Grant funds will be used to fund subawards to strengthen and modernize Arkansas's health care system by addressing healthcare workforce shortages, chronic disease monitoring and management, facility and technological improvements, including telemedicine infrastructure, emergency transport and treatment, behavioral and mental health needs, food as medicine, financial sustainability, and educational initiatives. This initial appropriation covers only administrative expenses necessary to establish the program.

**Project-Grant Funding**

Business Area Code: 0620  
 Funds Center Code: New  
 Fund Code: FRH0000  
 Functional Area Code: ADMN  
 Continuation of Existing Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Change in Existing Program: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Program: X

	New Federal Funds	State Matching Funds	Other Matching Funds	Project Total
Regular Salaries	\$ 250,000			\$ 250,000
Extra Help				-
Personal Services Matching	\$ 100,000			\$ 100,000
Operating Expenses	\$ 6,000,000			\$ 6,000,000
Conference & Travel Expenses				-
Professional Fees				-
Capital Outlay				-
Data Processing				-
Grants and Aid (CI: 04)				-
Other:				-
Other:				-
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 6,350,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 6,350,000</b>

**Funding Percentages**

**Type of Federal Grant**

	Federal	State	Other	Total
FY26	100%			0%
FY27	100%			0%
FY28	100%			0%
FY29	100%			0%
FY30	100%			0%

WIOA \_\_\_\_\_  
 Non-WIOA X

Anticipated Duration of Federal Funds: 10/30/2030

--	--

**State Technology Planning Date**

Items requested for information technology must be in compliance with Technology Plans as submitted.

**Positions to be established: (list each position separately)**

\* unclassified positions only

Org Unit	Pers Area	Pers SubArea	Cost Center	Position Number	Cmnt Item	Position Title	Class Code	Grade	Line Item Maximum *

**State funds will not be used to replace federal funds when such funds expire, unless appropriated by the General Assembly and authorized by the Governor.**

Signed by: Andy Ballitt 12/29/2025 | 2:46:11 PM CST Cayce Raney 12/31/25  
 Agency Secretary/Director Date Office of Budget Date Office of Personnel Mgmt Date  
 ds 12.29.25