



STATE OF VERMONT
JOINT FISCAL OFFICE

MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Committee members
From: Sorsha Anderson, Senior Staff Associate
Date: January 24, 2025
Subject: LSP Request – JFO #3240

Enclosed please find one (1) item, which the Joint Fiscal Office has received from the Administration. ***This item is being held for the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting scheduled for January 31, 2025.***

JFO #3240: One (1) limited-service position, Staff Attorney III, to the Agency of Natural Resources, Secretary's Office, to help manage and maximize the opportunities of over \$700 million in increased conservation funding available through the Forest Legacy Program. The position is funded through 9/30/2029 in part via JFO #3231 and additional ongoing Inflation Reduction Act funds, previously approved. *[Received 12/19/2024]*

Please review the enclosed materials and notify the Joint Fiscal Office (Sorsha Anderson, sanderson@leg.state.vt.us) if you have questions before the meeting.

A 3210

STATE OF VERMONT
Joint Fiscal Committee Review
Limited Service - Grant Funded
Position Request Form

This form is to be used by agencies and departments when additional grant funded positions are being requested. Review and approval by the Department of Human Resources must be obtained prior to review by the Department of Finance and Management. The Department of Finance will forward requests to the Joint Fiscal Office for JFC review. A Request for Classification Review Form (RFR) and an updated organizational chart showing to whom the new position(s) would report must be attached to this form. Please attach additional pages as necessary to provide enough detail.

Agency/Department: ANR/Secretary's Office Date: 6/12/2024

Name and Phone (of the person completing this request): Danielle Fitzko, FPR Commissioner

Request is for:

- ☐ Positions funded and attached to a new grant.
☒ Positions funded and attached to an existing grant approved by JFO # _____

1. Name of Granting Agency, Title of Grant, Grant Funding Detail (attach grant documents):

USDA, Forest Service, Forest Legacy Administration, approx. \$1.5. Funding is assigned to existing Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number - funding is going into existing programs and augmenting existing funding sources approved in FY25 budget.

2. List below titles, number of positions in each title, program area, and limited service end date (information should be based on grant award and should match information provided on the RFR) position(s) will be established only after JFC final approval:

Title* of Position(s) Requested	# of Positions	Division/Program	Grant Funding Period/Anticipated End Date
Staff Attorney III - Exempt	1	Legal	Annual Infrastructure Reduction Act (IRA) funding for five years with five years to spend on each annual grant. End date of 9/30/2029, but could be extended based on available grant funds.

*Final determination of title and pay grade to be made by the Department of Human Resources Classification Division upon submission and review of Request for Classification Review.

3. Justification for this request as an essential grant program need:

The Department will receive \$1.5 million in IRA funds to be spent by 2032 to bolster the Forest Legacy Program's capacity for increased conservation efforts beyond regular funding levels to help administer over 700 million in funding available nationally. An attorney will be utilized to leverage federal funds to support land conservation, aligning with Act 59's goals of accelerating conservation to achieve the 30x30 and 50x50 targets. This position's focus will be on providing legal support for fee acquisitions and conservation easements funded through the Forest Legacy Program, enhancing our ability to protect valuable lands.

I certify that this information is correct and that necessary funding, space and equipment for the above position(s) are available (required by 32 VSA Sec. 5(b)).

Danielle Fitzko

Digitally signed by Danielle Fitzko
Date: 2024.06.14 13:27:38 -04'00'

6/14/2024

Signature of Agency or Department Head

David Fuller

Digitally signed by David Fuller
Date: 2024.07.26 05:34:29 -04'00'

Date

Approved/Denied by Department of Human Resources

Adam Greshin

Digitally signed by Adam Greshin
Date: 2024.11.19 17:50:26 -05'00'

Date

Approved/Denied by Finance and Management

Sarah Clark

Date

12/1/2024 | 4:45:19 EST

Approved/Denied by Secretary of Administration

Date

Approved/Denied by Governor (required as amended by 2019 Leg. Session)

Date

Comments:

Agency of Natural Resources Secretary's Office, Legal Division

The Agency will receive \$1.5 million in IRA funds to help Vermont take advantage of over \$700 million in increased conservation funding available nationally through the Forest Legacy Program.

The Forest Legacy Program is an important conservation funding initiative for Vermont, supporting the conservation of working forests, which are crucial for maintaining the state's environmental health, economic stability, and cultural heritage. This additional funding will better position Vermont to meet the ambitious conservation targets established in Act 59 (2023), which aim for 30% of lands conserved by 2030 ("30x30") and 50% by 2050 ("50x50"). We are requesting an attorney position not just to conserve land, but to protect Vermont's natural resources, forest economy, and way of life for future generations.

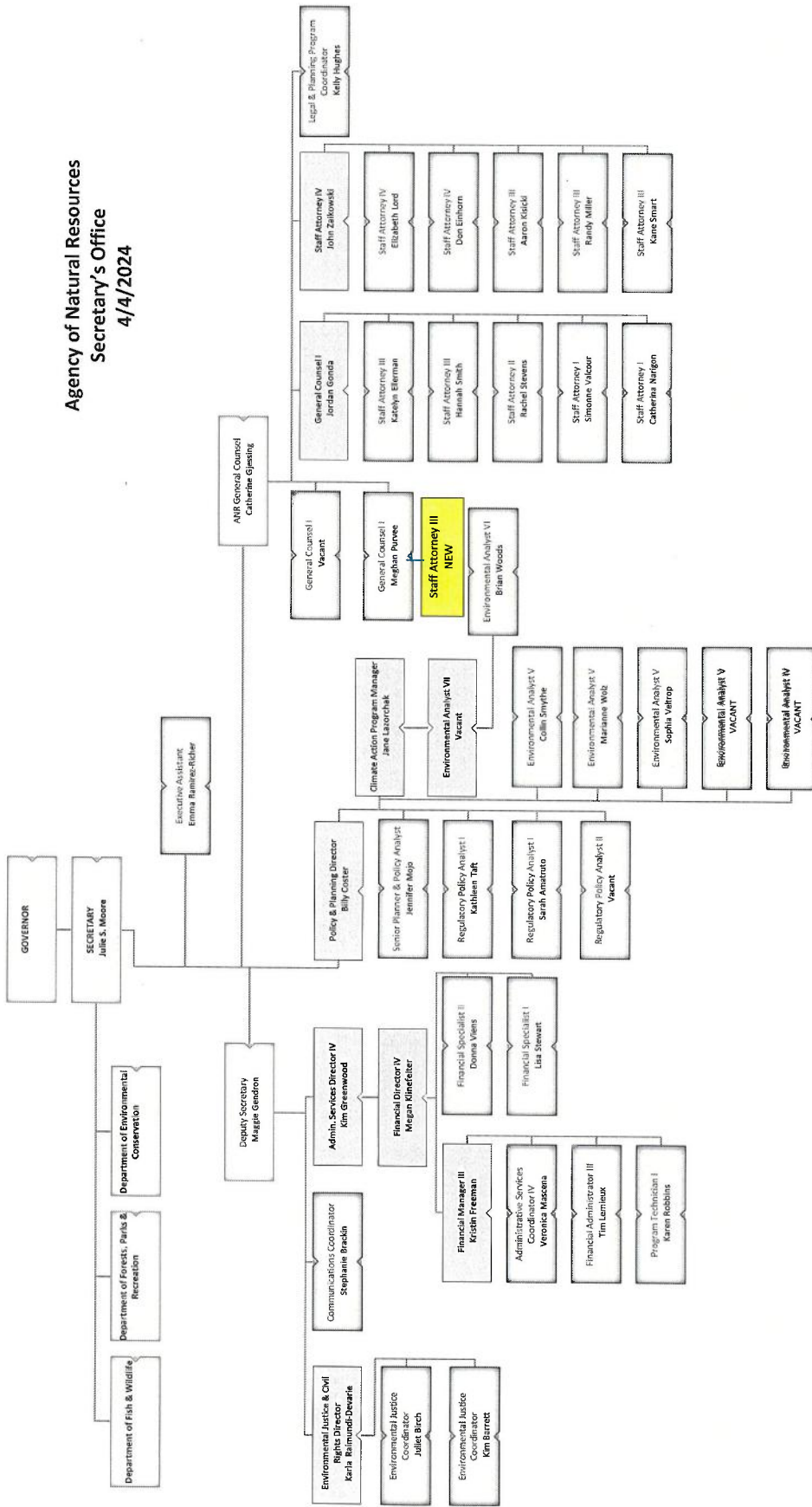
Conservation partners are actively submitting projects to ANR, and we need to respond to this influx of applications. To maximize the impact of these funds and navigate the complex legal landscape of conservation initiatives, an attorney dedicated to this effort is essential. Currently, the Agency does not have a dedicated real estate attorney. Bringing on this expertise to support the implementation of this one-time federal funding is critical to meeting the demand. The department considered contracting for this work, but ultimately determined that it would be more cost-effective to hire a limited-service attorney. This position will ensure that Vermont can efficiently access and utilize federal funds, draft and negotiate conservation easements, and manage state and federal compliance.

Position Request and Funding Source

The following positions are requested for authorization at this time.

Position Title	Funding Source
Staff Attorney III	USDA Forest Service, IRA Funding

Agency of Natural Resources
Secretary's Office
4/4/2024



State of Vermont
Commissioner's Office
Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation
 1 National Life Drive, Davis 2
 Montpelier, VT 05620-3801
<http://fpr.vermont.gov>

Agency of Natural Resources
Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner

[phone] 802-828-1534
 [fax] 802-828-1399

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: State of Vermont, Joint Fiscal Committee
FROM: Danielle Fitzko, Commissioner, Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation
THROUGH: Ansley Bloomer, Director of Finance and Administration
DATE: December 20, 2024
RE: ANR-FPR Limited Service Position Request

At the time that FPR submitted the requests for the Limited Service Positions listed below, we did not know that the new funding would be given a new Assistance Listing Number (ALN). Please see the amended chart below that provides updated funding information for each of the new positions.

Agency/ Dept.	Division	Job Code	Job Class	PG	Funding Authorization Reference	End	Dept ID	Bus Unit	Supervisor Name
ANR/FPR	Administration	521500	Grants Administrator	21	Funding has been available for decades and pre-dates the JFO number scheme. Additional funding to include administrative support.	9/30/2026	6130040000	06130	Nicole Streeter
ANR/FPR	Forests	310800	Forestry Professional III	24	USDA Forest Service, New IRA Funding - AA-I is with Governor's Office	12/31/2028	6130020000	06130	Keith Thompson
ANR/FPR	Forests	068110	Project and Implementation Specialist	25	USDA Forest Service, New IRA Funding - AA-I is with Governor's Office	12/31/2028	6130020000	06130	Keith Thompson
ANR/FPR	Forests	857200	Communications and Outreach Coordinator	22	USDA Forest Service, New IRA Funding - AA-I is with Governor's Office	12/31/2028	6130020000	06130	Keith Thompson
ANR/FPR	Forests	310800	Forestry Professional III	24	USDA Forest Service, New IRA Funding - AA-I is with Governor's Office	12/31/2028	6130020000	06130	Katherine Servidio
ANR/SO	Legal	Exempt	Staff Attorney III	exempt	USDA Forest Service, IRA Funding \$372K - JFO 3231; \$900k award is in the process of being executed and will be the same ALN/source as JFO 3231	9/30/2029	6100010806	06100	Catherine Gjessing