



UTAH EXPANDS ELIGIBILITY FOR FY 2022 LSR PROGRAM COMPETITIVE GRANTS

Utah’s Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL) is revising the competitive grant processes for its Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Program in response to recent federal legislation and guidance from the USDA Forest Service. The new guidance calls on FFSL to expand eligibility for the LSR competitive grants process to local governments, nonprofit organizations, Tribes and universities.

The LSR Program is one of FFSL’s Cooperative Forestry Programs in partnership with the USDA Forest Service, State & Private Forestry. In 2008, the Forest Service began developing a competitive grants program for state forestry agencies to develop and implement collaborative landscape-scale forest restoration projects. The LSR competitive grants process among Western states has been developed and administered by the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC).

Forest Service guidance for the new LSR legislative authorities maintains administrative responsibilities with State forestry agencies. In accordance with this guidance, Utah FFSL is revising its LSR competitive grant processes to enable newly eligible entities to participate and to encourage the strongest possible LSR project applications from Utah for the competition among Western states.

FFSL will administer the grant applications process, grant awards process, and the grant reporting process for the LSR Program, in cooperation with WFLC and the Forest Service. Key changes in FFSL’s LSR grants process include:

- Pre-proposal—Because each state in the Western LSR grant competition is limited to five applications, FFSL is creating a subcommittee within Utah’s Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee to assist with a process to review pre-proposals and select five for full-proposal development and submission.
- Timeline—FFSL is revising previous timelines and lengthening the grant process in Utah to provide opportunity to engage potential new entities and for the pre-proposal review and selection process. The revised timeline will also allow more time to develop selected pre-proposals into full proposals, enhancing the opportunity for Utah’s five applications to be successful in the Western state competition.
- FFSL’s administrative responsibilities—FFSL is establishing new policies for administering the LSR Program with newly eligible entities. These responsibilities relate to administering:
 - The revised LSR grant application process within the State;
 - The receipt of grant funds from the Forest Service and distribution to entities selected for LSR grant awards; and,
 - The collection and reporting of LSR project outcomes to the Forest Service.

LSR Pre-Proposal for FY 2022

For the FY 2022 LSR grant process, FFSL has developed a Pre-Proposal Form for interested and eligible entities to develop and frame potential LSR project proposals. FFSL may submit up to five full proposals from Utah for scoring and ranking in the competition for LSR grant funding among Western states. The purpose of Pre-Proposals is for FFSL, with assistance from a new LSR subcommittee of Utah's Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, to review and select up to five Pre-Proposals for full-proposal development. To help ensure strong submissions from the State, FFSL's LSR Program staff will provide further guidance to entities selected to develop and submit full proposals.

FFSL's Pre-Proposal Form for the FY 2022 LSR grant process is intended to be a tool to help potential applicants understand what it would mean to develop a full proposal and to begin framing a proposal before investing too much time and effort. Please complete the Pre-Proposal Form to address the highlighted statement in each section as well as you are able (without specific constraints on word or character counts at this time). The more detailed criteria below each highlighted statement may inform your response, but please do not feel compelled to address each of them. That will be the purpose of the full proposal.

The FY 2022 LSR Pre-Proposal Form is located below. Completed forms are due to FFSL by Friday, June 4th. FFSL will notify successful applicants of the opportunity to develop and submit full proposals by July 1st.

LSR Program and Full LSR Proposals

The Pre-Proposal Form is patterned closely on the form for full LSR proposals. The LSR grant process and proposal forms have been in continual development for more than a decade. They are complex, and potential applicants are encouraged to review them carefully. WFLC's guidance for FY2021 proposals is located below. Further information about the LSR Program, the grant process, and examples of LSR grant proposals from previous years can be found on WFLC's website at:

<https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program>

Please contact Bill Zanotti, Forestry Programs Coordinator, if you should have any questions about the FY 2022 LSR pre-proposal process at:

Bill Zanotti
Billzanotti@utah.gov
435-260-9809

**FY 2022 Landscape Scale Restoration
Competitive Grant Program
PRE-PROPOSAL FORM**

Applicant Information				
Applicant:				
Contact Person:				
Address:				
City:		State:		Zipcode:
Phone:		Email:		

Project Information			
Is this a Multi-state proposal? If yes, list the co-applicant:			<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Descriptive Title of Project:			
Partnering Agencies / Organizations:			
Project Duration:	<input type="checkbox"/> One Year	<input type="checkbox"/> Two Years	<input type="checkbox"/> Three Years

Project Location/Purpose Statement
<p style="background-color: yellow; margin: 0;"><i>Provide a succinct and relevant project overview/purpose statement; clearly communicate the value of the project.</i></p> <p><i>Description should include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - location and importance of landscape; - landscape need; - high level overview of main goals, objectives, and deliverables; - collaboration, boundaries, jurisdictions; - amount of funds requested and total project value; and - relationship to Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and Landscape Objectives.

Context, Goals, and Objectives

Context should clearly identify priority landscapes and issues that are the focus of the project. Goals and objectives should be explicitly explained and linked to state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) priorities and to the Landscape Objectives. The need for treatment of the landscape should be clearly explained, and the goals of the project should be clearly addressed and linked to the needs. Project objectives should be clearly identified, developed, and linked to project goals.

Proposed Activities

Clearly describe activities to be completed with grant funds and leveraged resources. All project expenditures should be explicitly identified and linked to specific project goals, objectives, and activities. Match funds, their source, which goals they support, and specific costs should be well detailed. The financial contributions of partners should be documented clearly under leverage. Projects that leverage funding from multiple entities will be given priority. Please note: Any research items included in a project description MUST explicitly outline their funding source as non-federal funds. Projects that use S&PF dollars to fund research are considered ineligible.

Project Budget						
		Leverage ¹				
	Grant	Match		Non-Match	Source	TOTAL
	Funds requested	Applicant	Non-federal contributors	Applicant, non-federal, and/or federal	3 rd Party Contributor/s	Total project cost
Personnel / Labor:						
Fringe Benefits:						
Travel:						
Equipment:						
Supplies:						
Contractual:						
Construction:						
Consolidated²:						
Other:						
Indirect Costs³:						
TOTAL:						

¹ Leverage includes all three categories: match, non-match, and source. Funds qualifying as “match” must meet the same program requirements as grant funds (e.g., program authorities, non-federal sources). Other “non-match” leveraged funds do not need to meet the same standards (e.g., may include funds for construction, funds from other federal partners). Partnership with other USFS programs outside of State & Private Forestry, as well as other federal and state programs is encouraged.

² If any part of your match requirement is being covered through a consolidated payment grant (i.e. state spending of non-federal funds on activities that meet S&PF program authorities but are not tied to this proposal), please place it here.

³ Indirect costs must be tied to an established rate. Waived indirect costs are an acceptable source of match.

Deliverables and Outcomes

Clearly lay out deliverables and outcomes and link them to achievement of state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) priorities and to the Landscape Objectives. Clearly describe how the selected objectives will lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape and how applicants will measure progress towards those outcomes. Clear articulation of the planned results of these efforts and the metrics by which those results will be measured (e.g., acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels, acres treated for insects and disease, acres of trees and seedlings planted to enhance water quality) will be prioritized for funding. Proposed metrics should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.

Collaboration/Cross-Boundary

Proposals should address all elements listed below and demonstrate use of coordination and partnerships with complementary state and federal programs to improve outcomes. Proposal should describe how the project is cross-boundary. Projects should clearly identify partners that are actively engaged and add value towards project planning and implementation. Collaboration, both qualitative and quantitative, should be detailed. Proposal should demonstrate partnership, convey how regular meetings/dialogue of partners will be convened, describe how the project cultivates organization of partners/landowners around common goals/objectives, detail the sharing of funding or resources, and explain how the project generates commitment to working across boundaries for achievement of the project. Project proposal should detail prior collaborative work. High scoring projects may also coordinate with or be proximate to other landscape-scale projects on federal or state land to increase collaboration and overall impact.

Forest Action Plan Integration

Proposal should clearly describe the need for the proposed project and relate it to one or more priority landscapes, issues, areas, or strategies identified in the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy). Project may additionally use Forest Stewardship Priority Areas and other state or regional assessments and plans, including those completed by other agencies or partners to help strengthen the identification of priority issues or landscapes. Use of these other documents enhances the case for prioritization, but the linkage to the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) must still be clearly established. Clearly describe how the need for the project is directly linked to the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) priorities. Explain that the landscape falls within a priority area identified in the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent restoration strategies). Describe how project strategies align with strategies identified in state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy).

Meaningful Scale/Cross-Boundary

Clearly describe how the project scale (i.e. scope) is a function of the most appropriate size associated with ownerships, objectives, and outcomes (including cross-boundary goals) for the priority landscape. Projects should describe the project area, the land ownerships, and specific areas targeted for treatments. Detail how the scale is sufficient to address the identified relevant priority landscape and issues from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and the Landscape Objectives being addressed by the project. Clearly articulate the rationale for why the scope is meaningful. A project may also coordinate with or be proximate to other landscape-scale projects on federal or state land as a means of enhancing the scope of the project.

Sustainability of Outcomes

Projects should describe how others will learn from project implementation, including the project's potential to inform practitioners and enhance the effectiveness of similar initiatives. This knowledge and technical transfer need not necessarily be between states but should aim to share innovation across the landscapes of importance. Provide rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future, beyond project end date. Clearly outline replicability to increase future impact. Explain how development and/or strengthening of partnerships will also be a means of supporting project outcomes beyond the project end date. Describe how the project results in skills and enhanced capabilities that extend beyond the life of the project. Project displays how this investment will lead to a specific, quantifiable, cost effective, replicable benefit that addresses the priority landscape and issues from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent statewide restoration strategy), as well as the Landscape Objectives. Describe how project results in resource sharing and cross-boundary/jurisdictional agreements that extend beyond the project period. Please note: While projects may include a component of outreach, education, and training as a means to achieve the project goals, it should not be the sole outcome.

Timeline for Utah FFSL FY 2022 LSR Competitive Grant Proposals

June 4, 2021	LSR Pre-proposals due.
July 1, 2021	Successful applicants notified to move forward with completing full project proposals.
August 19, 2021	Complete grant applications due to FFSL for review. Suggested edits provided to applicants. Ongoing editing and improvement of applications for final submission.
September 30, 2021 (estimated)	FFSL submits final applications to Western Forestry Leadership Coalition for the Western States Grant Review Teams ranking and review.
November 2021	Western States Grant Review Teams scoring/ranking process
January 2022	Anticipated funding lists announced for LSR (funding not guaranteed)
June 2022	Dependent on congressional appropriations, LSR funding is awarded to States.
July 1, 2022	FFSL develops partner agreements with LSR project partners/managers.



FY 2021 Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Process

National Overview and Western Guidance

The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) codified the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) competitive grant program. With that codification came several programmatic changes. Fiscal year (FY) 2020 was considered an interim implementation year with full changes to take effect in the FY 2021 process. Because the FY 2021 National Guidance is currently working through the formal approval process, which will include a public comment period, the FY 2021 guidance is considered ‘interim 2.0.’ All of the programmatic changes within the 2018 Farm Bill are incorporated into the FY 2021 National Guidance and Western Guidance. Additionally, consideration of the guidance as interim 2.0 acknowledges that some changes may still occur for FY 2022 following a public comment period. The Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) is working closely with western states, the USDA Forest Service (USFS), and other newly eligible entities to ensure there is as much clarity, transparency, and provision of technical assistance as possible for navigating the modifications.

Final proposals for the LSR Competitive Process are to be submitted online. Applications will be submitted through state/island forestry agencies, which will put forth a maximum of five applications per state/Pacific Island for consideration by the multi-agency grant scoring panel. Tribal entities have the option of applying through the relevant state/island forestry agency or through the relevant USFS Regional Office. Each western State and Pacific Island Forester will receive an online application portal password from WFLC staff for FY 2021. WFLC staff will also work with USFS staff to facilitate submission of Tribal applications received through the online portal system. Proposals from previous years and the final submission grant portal are located at www.forestrygrants.org/westernLSR.

Multi-State Proposals: If an applicant is participating in submission of a proposal for a multi-state project, such that funds would go to entities/agencies in more than one state/island, state/islands should use the multi-state proposal on-line system to share, develop, and submit one proposal with multiple budgets. Non-state/island forestry agency entities should contact each state forestry agency to coordinate submission of a multi-state project. Tribal entities may opt to either work through the state/island forestry agencies or contact the relevant USFS Region(s) to coordinate multi-state projects as outlined in the instructions below.

Submission deadline: All project proposals must be submitted by 1:00 p.m. Mountain Time on Thursday, September 17, 2020. Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

All associated western LSR documents can be found by visiting:

<https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program/fy-2021-landscape-scale-restoration>

For more information, please contact:

Danielle Okst, CWSF/WFLC Associate Policy and Grants Director, 303.835.9911,
dokst@westernforesters.org

GENERAL PROJECT ELIGIBILITY AND SIDEBARS

- **Eligible Entities:** State and territorial forestry agencies (or an equivalent state agency), units of local government, Tribes, non-profit organizations (defined as a 501(c)(3)), and universities are eligible to receive LSR funding. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply under this competition.
- **Process:** Entities wishing to apply should contact their state or island forestry agency regarding submission of an LSR proposal. The state/island forestry agency will select the five most competitive applications to submit to the westwide competition via the online portal for FY 2021. The selection process may vary by state or island forestry agency. Only those proposals submitted to the grant portal will be considered final and undergo review by the multi-agency LSR grants review panel.
- Tribal entities may route their proposal through the state process outlined above, in which case the proposal would count towards the five applications per state cap along with all other applicants. Alternatively, Tribes may submit applications through the relevant Tribal or LSR official in the USFS Region where the Tribe and its project are located. The Forest Service Regions will advance final proposals and will work with WFLC staff to enter Tribal proposals into the grant application portal. Once submitted, Tribal projects will be scored with all other applications. However, applications routed through the USFS will not count towards the state cap of five and will instead be limited to two (2) Tribal applications per state. The submission state, for purposes of this limitation, will be determined by the location of the project or, in the case of a project spanning more than one state, the Tribe will work in consultation with the USFS Regional Office to determine the submission state. If a Tribal project is selected for funding through this process, the USFS Region will work directly with the Tribe on the grant award.
- **Caps and Maximum Funding Levels:** Each state is limited to submission of a final five (5) proposals into the system for consideration (this cap does not include the two additional USFS routed Tribal applications allowable per state). Each proposal is limited to a \$300,000 request. No state will receive more than 15% of the total funds available to the West. The 15% cap applies to the state as a geographic area and therefore applies to all projects therein in order to ensure funds have a chance to be equitably distributed across landscapes in the West. The 15% cap applies to the five (5) proposals routed through the state forestry agencies and the two (2) Tribal applications routed through a USFS Region.
 - As in past years, funding available to the West for FY 2021 is based on the final FY appropriation from Congress for the LSR program and the funding allocation to the Forest Service Regions from the Forest Service Washington Office. While funding may fluctuate from year to year, for planning purposes, the total funding for LSR projects for the West (including the Pacific Island sub-competition set aside of \$300,000 explained below) has been approximately \$4 million annually. The maximum that may be awarded to one state as a geographic area (five state forestry submitted and two USFS Tribal applications) is anticipated to be approximately \$600,000.
- **Multi-State Proposals:** Please see directions below on how to submit a multi-state proposal. A multi-state proposal will count toward each state's maximum submission of five, with each separate budget limited to a \$300,000 request. A multi-state proposal will be scored as a single application. The "lead" applicant is the state that begins the application and presses the "submit" button. There is no other distinction between lead and co-applicants(s). A state can alternately participate in a multi-state project and elect not to submit a multi-state proposal but rather to

submit individual state-by-state applications, each with unique narratives. Non-state/island entities that would like to apply for a multi-state project should indicate so in their proposals to the relevant state/island forestry agencies. All state/island forestry agencies where the project will take place should be contacted, and the non-state/island entity can coordinate a multi-state proposal as outlined above or elect to not submit a multi-state proposal and apply separately through each state. Tribes should use this process or alternatively contact the USFS Region(s) where the Tribe and the project are located.

- **Match Requirement:** The match must be met by eligible and allowable costs and is subject to match provisions in grant regulations (see [Federal Regulations Title 2 Part 200.306](#) and [Subpart E for Cost Principles](#)). Proposals from non-Pacific Islands require a 1:1 match from the state forestry agency (or an equivalent state agency), unit of local government, non-profit organization (defined as a 501(c)(3)), university, or Tribal grant recipient. For applications from Territory of Guam, Territory of American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Federated States of Micronesia, a 1:1 match on funds received in excess of \$200,000 is required.
 - **Match Waiver:** All non-PI proposals are required to provide a 1:1 match unless a match waiver is approved by the USFS. Proposals must state receipt of a match waiver from the USFS. Match waivers are decisions within the authority of the USFS Region awarding the grant.
- **Pacific Islands:** The WFLC has approved a sub-competition for the Western Pacific Islands. There is no difference in the application process. All applications use the same www.forestrygrants.org web portal and have the same deadlines and guidance. Projects submitted by the Pacific Island agencies will be submitted and scored with all other applications. Successful Pacific Island projects of \$200,000 or less per project will be funded via set-aside funding up to a total project pool of \$300,000. This offers an opportunity for smaller projects from the Pacific Island applicants to compete for the set-aside. When/if those funds are exhausted, any remaining Pacific Island proposals will compete as normal with other submissions for funding. Any Pacific Island projects requesting funding greater than \$200,000 will not take part in the sub-competition and will instead compete and be funded within the Western LSR process. Any funding not used in the PI sub-competition will be returned to the regular Western LSR funding pool for use on other projects.
- **Eligible Costs:** Research activities cannot be paid for using LSR grant funds (i.e. via direct federal funding or in the form of match). Research involves testing a new theory or hypothesis, and the end product may be a new model that the researcher will be publishing. However, a research entity could be included as a partner, with their contribution included as non-match leverage. Any research items included in a project description MUST explicitly outline their funding source as being from non-federal funds. Projects that seek to use S&PF dollars to fund research will be excluded from selection consideration due to being ineligible.
- **Leverage:** Projects should maximize S&PF funding by using it to leverage contributions from both federal and non-federal entities. Projects that leverage funding from multiple entities will be given priority. Project applications should include a budget table that clearly identifies LSR requested funds and associated non-federal contributions from each partner and separately document non-match leveraged contributions. Successful applicants will be required to report information on match and non-match leverage each fiscal year.
- **Knowledge and Technical Transfer:** Technical transfer is the sharing of knowledge, tools, and innovations for practical application. Projects should describe how others will learn from project

implementation, including the project’s potential to inform practitioners and enhance the effectiveness of similar initiatives. Knowledge and technical transfer need not necessarily be between different legal entities but should aim to share innovation across the landscapes of importance. While projects may include a component of outreach, education, and training as a means to achieve the project goals, these elements should not be the sole anticipated outcome.

- **Authorities:** LSR projects are delivered utilizing authorities in the [Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978](#) as amended. Allowable S&PF program authorities are: Forest Stewardship, Rural Forestry Assistance, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health Protection, and Community and Private Land Fire Assistance (State Fire Assistance). Ineligible authorities: Rural Volunteer Fire Department Assistance (Volunteer Fire Assistance), Forest Legacy, Community Forest and Open Space Conservation, and Federal Lands Forest Health Management.
- **Rural Requirement:** Projects must focus on on-the-ground outcomes on rural forest land, which is also considered nonindustrial private forest land or State forest land (see [FY 2021 National Guidance](#)). For the purposes of this program, rural (as defined by 7 USC 1991(a)(13) Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act) means any area other than an urbanized area such as a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants according to the latest census (2010 Census for FY2021). The term nonindustrial private forest land means land that is rural, that has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees, and is owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other private legal entity. The term State forest land means land that is rural, and that is under state or local governmental ownership, and considered to be non-Federal forest land. Please refer to the [LSR Project Planning Tool Project Eligibility Tab](#) to confirm if a project’s focus area conforms to the requirements of being rural per the definition above.
- **Collaboration:** Projects that include collaboration among multiple entities are encouraged within the criteria. Projects should identify partners that are actively engaged and add value towards project planning and implementation. Collaboration may be qualitative in nature and the contribution of the partners may be more important than the number of partners involved in the projects. Financial contributions should be documented under leverage. Note that while collaboration and coordination with USFS or other public land management agencies is encouraged, grant awards can only be used for work on non-federal land (non-federal land includes Tribal land).
- **Coordination and Cross-Boundary:** Projects should seek to improve the delivery of public benefits from forest management by coordinating with complementary state and federal programs and partnership efforts where possible. Successful projects will also be cross-boundary and include a combination of land ownerships. Cross-boundary may include any combination of ownerships including Tribal, state and local governments, and private entities. It does not require the inclusion of federal land, however coordination with and proximity to other landscape-scale projects on federal or state lands is encouraged to achieve impacts across ownership.
- **Implementation:** Projects can indicate a multi-year implementation timeframe, up to three (3) years. Funding, however, will be limited to delivery in the fiscal year of the application.
- **Landscape Objectives:** Successful projects will prioritize funding and other resources towards one or more landscape/resource objectives identified below, hereinafter referred to as “Landscape Objectives.” Successful projects will, in many instances, address multiple objectives (see National Guidance and Section 8102(e) of the 2018 Farm Bill). Within the application, please describe all Landscape Objectives addressed by the project.

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires;
- Improve fish and wildlife habitats, including for threatened and endangered species;
- Maintain and improve water quality and watershed function;
- Mitigate invasive species, insect infestation, and disease;
- Improve important forest ecosystems;
- Measure ecological and economic benefits including air quality and soil quality and productivity.

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

This document includes a summary of the National Guidance. It is NOT meant to substitute the National Guidance but rather serve as a supplement to guide the application process in the western U.S.. All applicants should also carefully review the National Guidance, which can be found at:

<https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program/fy-2021-landscape-scale-restoration>

Background of LSR:

LSR replaces what was known as the Competitive Resource Allocation Process. Projects funded through LSR competitively allocated funds should focus on priority landscapes and the use of innovative cross-boundary approaches. “Cross-boundary” is defined broadly. Innovative projects should integrate S&PF programs and cross a combination of ownerships and management boundaries. “Cross-Boundary” does not require the inclusion of National Forest System (NFS) lands. In order to be consistent with S&PF authorities, if NFS lands are included in a landscape-level project, the state must ensure no S&PF LSR funds are spent on the NFS lands.

Forest Actions Plans, Cross-Boundary, and Landscape Scale

Projects must advance priorities identified in a State Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) that:

- is complete or substantially complete;
- is for a multi-year period;
- covers non-industrial private forest land or state forest land;
- is accessible by wood processing infrastructure; and
- is based on the best available science.

Proposals should clearly state the link to a State Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and to the Landscape Objectives.

States may additionally use Forest Stewardship Priority Areas and other state or regional assessments and plans, including those completed by other agencies or partners, to help identify priority issues or landscapes. Projects are encouraged to coordinate with or be proximate to other landscape-scale projects on federal or state land to increase collaboration and overall impact.

Multi-State Proposals

Collaborative projects that focus on priority landscapes and crossboundaries, such as multi-state projects, are encouraged within the criteria. For application purposes, the multi-state checkbox should be checked only if the project involves applicants from more than one state AND applicants from more than one state are requesting direct funds. If a project includes collaboration among entities from one or more states, but funds are only being requested to flow to an entity/entities within a single state, then

that collaboration should be described in the narrative but the multi-state proposal checkbox should not be checked.

If applicants choose to submit a multi-state proposal, the multi-state proposal checkbox must be checked on the application. An “applicants” menu will then appear to add other participating states and contact information. The proposal will then also appear in the participating states’ list of proposals. It is the same proposal with only the funding request and budget being unique for each state’s application. The proposal will count toward each state’s maximum submission of five, with each separate budget limited to a \$300,000 request. The “lead” applicant is the state/island that begins the application and presses the “submit” button. There is no other distinction between lead and co-applicant(s). The proposal will be scored as a single application; however, if the project is recommended for funding, it would still be possible for one state/applicant to receive funds and another not, due to the 15% cap.

States/applicants can participate in a multi-state project and choose not to submit a multi-state proposal. In this case, an application can be submitted from each state separately.

A Tribal entity with a project spanning across states may pick a ‘lead state’ and submit a proposal according to the process outlined above, working through the state/island forestry agency. This would count against the five application cap for the lead state. A Tribe may also submit to several states, with separate budgets for each Tribal application in each state. The five application cap for each state would apply. If working through the USFS Region instead of the state/island agency, the Tribe(s) would work with the USFS Tribal Affairs/LSR representative to determine the most appropriate avenue for submission (whether through one or multiple states). In all of the above scenarios, the 15% cap per state would apply to selected proposals.

Matching Requirements

The LSR Competitive Process grant awards require a 1:1 match for all amounts from the non-Pacific Island grant recipients and a 1:1 match on funds received in excess of \$200,000 for territorial, flag islands, and freely associated states. A match waiver acquired from the USFS is the only exception to this requirement, and evidence of such exception must be provided in the application materials (i.e. a waiver must already have been approved prior to submission of an application in order for match requirements to be considered satisfactorily met in the west-wide multi-agency grant review process).

Matching requirements for dollars awarded through the competitive allocation process will be handled consistent with consolidated payment grants (CPG) methodology utilized with state/island forestry agencies. Cash and in-kind contributions for project elements that do not fall within S&PF program authorities may not be used as match. Other “non-match” leveraged funds do not need to meet the same standards (e.g., may include funds for construction, funds from other federal partners, research related funds).

Projects should maximize S&PF funding by using it to **leverage** contributions from both federal and non-federal entities. Projects that leverage funding from multiple entities will be given priority.

Match must be met by eligible and allowable costs and is subject to match provisions in grant regulations (see [Federal Regulations Title 2 Part 200.306](#) and [Subpart E for Cost Principles](#)).

Identifying sources of match and of non-match leverage is important in the reporting process for the use of these funds; information on these will be required each fiscal year by the USFS.

Financial Requirements

A non-state/island entity can receive funding through a state/island or directly. If an entity wishes to be directly granted funds, they will need to complete all USFS requirements and documentation to prove financial eligibility to receive federal funds directly. In these cases, entities must contact the relevant USFS Region prior to submission of their proposal to ensure they have completed and can demonstrate proof of completion of all financial eligibility requirements. Tribes may work through the states or may coordinate with the USFS Region where the project is located to determine the funding method.

Multi-year projects

Multi-year projects will be fully funded in a single year, the fiscal year of the project application. If it is not possible to undertake all work to achieve the goals of a project through a single LSR project application, each phase will need to compete as a new project application.

Eligibility Requirements – S&PF Program Authorities

Project proposals must meet the requirements of S&PF Program Authorities and Office of Management and Budget cost principles. We encourage collaboration between applicants and the USFS to avoid eligibility issues. Below are some common issues:

Construction is not an allowable cost (grant or match) under current S&PF Program Authorities or cost principles. Projects that involve requests for funds and/or provide match for construction of new buildings or roads are not eligible. Construction activities completed by private companies and/or state agencies may apply as leverage (not S&PF component or match).

However, projects that involve restoration activities (e.g., stream bank stabilization, stream crossing enhancement, and fencing) with a direct benefit to the forest and/or wildlife habitat, and still meeting requirements, may be funded using LSR grant funds.

Purchasing of land is not an allowable cost with grant funds or the use of partner purchase of land as match.

Purchase of special purpose (technical) equipment greater than \$5,000 is allowable with prior approval by the awarding agency office (USFS Region). Please note this approval within the application. Verification of this approval will occur if the project is selected. Purchase of equipment less than \$5,000 is allowable without prior approval by the awarding agency office.

Research activities are not allowable costs. Research involves testing a new theory or hypothesis, and the end product may be a new model that the researcher will be publishing. On the other hand, a research entity could be included as a partner, with their contribution included as non-match leverage. Any research items included in a project description **MUST** explicitly outline their funding source as being from non-federal funds. Projects that use S&PF dollars to fund research are considered ineligible.

Reporting

Once funded, all competitive projects will be required to provide data through the USFS State and Private Forestry's Landscape Scale Reporting (LaSR) system. Reports will be requested of the states/awarded entities by the USFS at the end of the fiscal year in which project funds were awarded, and at the end of each fiscal year through the end of the project. Please see National Guidance for further information.

Modifications to Grants

Modifications to competitively-awarded grants (whether the project is an individual grant or part of a CPG) is handled between the signatories of the grants (i.e., the respective applicant and USFS Regional Office). All efforts should be made to ensure substantive consistency with the initial application.

Ranking and Recommendations

The western interagency LSR grants review team will review and rank proposals. The list of ranked projects and recommendations will be approved by the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition members. Once approved, the ranked list is forwarded to the USFS Washington Office. When the western allocation is decided for that fiscal year, the ranked list will be reconciled with the actual funding total and notices will be sent from the USFS Washington Office to the State and Private Forestry Directors.

PROJECT PROPOSAL CRITERIA

Please note for applications: The first time an acronym is used, write out the full name followed by the acronym in parentheses in capital letters. Later, use only the acronym.

All project proposals will be screened and evaluated based on the following:

Screening Criteria

Meets all project eligibility requirements and sidebars (refer to ‘General Project Eligibility and Sidebars’ section) ¹	Yes = Eligible	No = Ineligible
Meets the 1:1 non-federal match requirement ²	Yes = Eligible	No = Ineligible

Evaluation Criteria³

	4-5 pts - High	3 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
<p><i>Project Overview/Purpose Statement</i></p> <p><i>1,250 Characters</i></p> <p>Description includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● location and importance of landscape; ● landscape need; ● high level overview of main goals, objectives, and deliverables; ● collaboration, boundaries, jurisdictions; ● amount of funds requested and total project value; and ● relationship to Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and Landscape Objectives. 	<p>Provides a succinct and relevant project overview/purpose statement; clearly communicates the value of the project.</p> <p>Description covers all description elements in the left column.</p>	<p>Summarizes the project but the value of the project is not clearly communicated.</p> <p>Includes some of the description elements required for a high score, but lacks others.</p>	<p>Does not effectively summarize the proposed project. Does not include many of the description elements required for a high score.</p>

¹ Prior to final submission into the forestrygrants.org portal on the submission confirmation screen, you will be asked to affirm all eligibility and other requirements have been met. Failure to select this affirmation or in any way not meeting the requirements laid out within the National Guidance and Western Guidance will result in a disqualification determination process. Applications deemed ineligible will be removed from the rankings prior to, during, or after the scoring process depending upon the time of this determination.

² The allocated grant amount must be matched in full and along program authorities by the recipient using non-federal funding sources, except as authorized for the Insular Areas in 48USC1469a and Amendment of Subsection (d) or in the case of acquiring a match waiver. Match waivers must be acquired from the USFS and specifically noted within the proposal. Matching requirements for dollars awarded through the competitive allocation process may be handled in a manner consistent with the mechanism utilized in consolidated payment grants.

³ Only full point scores will be assigned; no zeroes will be assigned unless a field is left blank. The maximum total score any one application can receive is 100. Each LSR team reviewer will yield a ranked list of reviewed applications from 1 to x after scoring applications. The application rankings are averaged across the reviewers, with the highest average ranked applications receiving funding priority.

	10-15 pts - High	4-9 pts – Medium	0-3 pts - Low
<p><i>Context, Goals, and Objectives</i></p> <p><i>2,500 Characters</i></p> <p>Priority landscape is identified and an explanation is included that relays clearly how the project advances priorities within the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and to the Landscape Objectives. The need for treatment of the landscape is clearly explained, and the goals of the project are clearly addressed and linked to the needs. Project objectives are clearly identified, developed, and linked to project goals.</p>	<p>Context clearly identifies priority landscapes and issues that are the focus of the project. Goals and objectives are explicitly explained and linked to state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) priorities and to the Landscape Objectives. The need for treatment of the landscape is clearly explained, and the goals of the project are clearly addressed and linked to the needs. Project objectives are clearly identified, developed, and linked to project goals.</p>	<p>Project context, goals and objectives are present, but underdeveloped. The priority landscape and link to state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and to the Landscape Objectives are not adequately explained. The need for treatment of the landscape and the goals and objectives of the project are mentioned but underdeveloped.</p>	<p>Project context, goals, and objectives are unclear. The priority landscape and link to state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and to the Landscape Objectives are not explained. The need for treatment of the landscape and the goals and objectives of the project are absent.</p>

	14-20 pts - High	6-13 pts – Medium	0-5 pts - Low
<p><i>Proposed Activities and Budget</i></p> <p><i>3,000 characters</i></p> <p>Describes activities to be completed with grant funds and leveraged resources. Identifies project expenditures and links them to project goals, objectives, and activities. Match funds, their source, which goals they support and costs are detailed. The financial contributions of partners should be documented clearly under leverage. Projects that leverage funding from multiple entities will be given priority.</p> <p>Please note: Any research items included in a project description MUST explicitly outline their funding source as non-federal funds. Projects that use S&PF dollars to fund research are considered ineligible.</p>	<p>Clearly describes with specificity, activities to be completed with grant funds and leveraged resources. All project expenditures are explicitly identified and linked to specific project goals, objectives, and activities. Match funds, their source, which goals they support, and specific costs are well detailed. The financial contributions of partners are documented clearly under leverage.</p>	<p>Describes project activities and how grant funds and leveraged resources will be used, but lacks detail and/or some resources included in the Project Budget are unaccounted for. Links to the stated goals and objectives may be weak or not fully described.</p>	<p>Insufficient detail is provided as to what work will be completed using grant funds and leveraged resources. Little or no link to the Project Budget or stated goals and objectives.</p>

	10-15 pts - High	4-9 pts – Medium	0-3 pts - Low
<p><i>Deliverables and Outcomes</i></p> <p><i>2,500 Characters</i></p> <p>Project deliverables and outcomes are indicated. Project outcomes link to the state Forest Action Plans (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and to the Landscape Objectives. Projects will clearly describe how the selected objectives will lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape and how applicants will measure progress towards those outcomes. Proposals that clearly articulate the planned results of their effort and the metrics by which those results will be measured (e.g., acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels, acres treated for insects and disease, acres of trees and seedlings planted to enhance water quality) will be prioritized for funding. Proposed metrics should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.</p>	<p>Clearly lays out deliverables and outcomes and links them to achievement of state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) priorities and to the Landscape Objectives. Provides clear measures of success that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.</p>	<p>Project deliverables are described, though how they will be measured and on what timeframe is unclear. Project outcomes are vague and the link to how they will support project goals and state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) priorities and to the Landscape Objectives is present but underdeveloped.</p>	<p>Insufficient detail is provided as to what the project deliverables and outcomes are. Unclear or no measures of success or whether the stated goals can be achieved. No link is made to the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) or the Landscape Objectives.</p>
<p><i>Collaboration/Cross-Boundary</i></p> <p><i>2,500 Characters</i></p> <p>Proposal describes how the project is cross-boundary. Projects clearly identify partners that are actively engaged and add value towards project planning and implementation. Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of the partners may be more important than the number of partners involved in the projects. Demonstrates partnership, conveys that regular meetings/dialogue of partners will be convened, cultivates organization of partners/landowners around common goals/objectives, shares funding or resources, and generates commitment to working across boundaries for achievement of the project. Project proposal details prior collaborative work.</p>	<p>Project achieves all elements listed in the left hand column. Towards this end, it demonstrates use of coordination and partnerships with complementary state and federal programs to improve outcomes. Clearly describes how partners are committed and will add value during project development and implementation. Clearly details prior collaborative work. Collaboration will clearly result in a successful cross-boundary project. Clearly explain how multiple entities are included in the project. High scoring projects may also coordinate with or be proximate to other landscape-scale projects on federal or state land to increase collaboration and overall impact.</p>	<p>Collaboration with partners is identified but contribution to project or commitment to outcomes is limited. Discussion of how partners have been engaged is limited. Cross-boundary impacts are limited or unclear.</p>	<p>Very little or no collaboration appears to exist. The project does not appear to have a cross-boundary impact.</p>

	7-10 pts - High	3-6 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
<p>Forest Action Plan Integration</p> <p><i>2,000 Characters</i></p> <p>Clearly describes how the need for the project is directly linked to the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) priorities. Explains that the landscape falls within a priority area identified in the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent restoration strategies). Describes how project strategies align with strategies identified in state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy).</p>	<p>Clearly describes the need for the proposed project and relates it to one or more priority landscapes, issues, areas, or strategies identified in the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy). May additionally use Forest Stewardship Priority Areas and other state or regional assessments and plans, including those completed by other agencies or partners to help strengthen the identification of priority issues or landscapes. Use of these other documents enhances the case for prioritization, but the linkage to the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) must still be clearly established.</p>	<p>Need for the project is apparent but underdeveloped and/or link to the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) is unclear. May include use of Forest Stewardship Priority Areas and other state or regional assessments and plans, including those completed by other agencies, but does not clearly link to Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy).</p>	<p>Little to no information is provided as to why the project is a priority or how it relates to the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy).</p>
	7-10 pts - High	3-6 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
<p>Meaningful Scale/ Cross-Boundary</p> <p><i>2,000 Characters</i></p> <p>Scale (i.e. scope) of the project is a function of the most appropriate size associated with ownerships, objectives, and outcomes (including cross-boundary goals) for the priority landscape. Projects should describe the project area, the land ownerships and specific areas targeted for treatments. The scale is sufficient to address the identified relevant priority landscape and issues from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and the Landscape Objectives being addressed by the project. Rationale for why the scope is meaningful is clearly articulated. Project may also coordinate with or be proximate to other landscape-scale projects on</p>	<p>Encompasses all elements detailed in the left hand column, including: scale (i.e. scope) of the project is clearly based on and is appropriate for the stated goals, objectives, and outcomes including cross-boundary goals. The scale is sufficient to address the identified relevant priority landscape and issues from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy), as well the Landscape Objectives identified as being addressed. Rationale for why the scope is meaningful is clearly articulated. Project may also coordinate with or be proximate to other landscape-scale projects on federal or state land as a means of enhancing the scope of the project.</p>	<p>Scale (i.e. scope) of the project appears to be only partially appropriate for the stated goals, objectives, and outcomes, including cross-boundary goals. The scale may not be sufficient to address the identified relevant priority landscape and issues from the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy).</p>	<p>Scale (i.e. scope) of the project is not appropriate for the stated goals, objectives, and outcomes, including cross-boundary goals. The scale will not address identified relevant priority landscape and issues from the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy).</p>

federal or state land as a means of enhancing the scope of the project.			
	7-10 pts - High	3-6 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
<p><i>Sustainability of Outcomes</i></p> <p><i>2,000 Characters</i></p> <p>Technical transfer is the sharing of knowledge, tools and innovations for practical application. Projects should describe how others will learn from project implementation including the project’s potential to inform practitioners and enhance the effectiveness of similar initiatives. Knowledge and technical transfer need not necessarily be between states, but should aim to share innovation across the landscapes of importance as relevant.</p> <p>Provides rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future beyond project end date. Replicability to increase future impact is clearly outlined. Explains how development and/or strengthening of partnerships will also be a means of supporting project outcomes beyond the project end date.</p> <p>Please note: While projects may include a component of outreach, education, and training as a means to achieve the project goals, it should not be the sole outcome.</p>	<p>Project addresses elements in left column and describes how the project results in skills and enhanced capabilities that extend beyond the life of the project. Project displays how this investment will lead to a specific, quantifiable, cost effective, replicable benefit that addresses the priority landscape and issues from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent statewide restoration strategy), as well as the Landscape Objectives. Project results in resource sharing and cross-boundary/jurisdictional agreements that extend beyond the project period. Project clearly describes how others will learn from project implementation including the project’s potential to inform practitioners and enhance the effectiveness of similar initiatives.</p>	<p>Description of how the project may result in skills, enhanced capability beyond the life of the project is limited or unclear. Explanation of how the project could or will be replicated is underdeveloped. Minimal explanation of resource sharing, agreements, or other partnership strengthening extending beyond the project period. Does not effectively describe technical transfer.</p>	<p>Description does not address how the project will create any lasting skills and capability. How the project would be replicated is not clearly indicated. No explanation of resource sharing, agreements, or strengthened partnerships exists. No technical transfer described.</p>