



FY 2021 Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Frequently Asked Questions

Question: For multi-state projects: Is it \$300,000 per project or \$300,000 per state? Would a two-state project be capped at \$300,000 or \$600,000?

- Answer: The cap would be \$300,000 per state for the multi-state project. So a two-state project could receive \$600,000 across both states (\$300,000 per state) if neither of those states hit the 15% cap.

Question: With a cap of \$600K, suppose a state submits 5 proposals that all rank high enough to receive funding. How would the funding be awarded across those projects?

- Answer: If the sum of the 5 projects did not exceed \$600K, the projects would all receive funding. If the projects in total exceed \$600,000, the top ranking projects would be funded and projects ranking lower would not receive funding.

Question: Do tribal applications count towards the state's 15% cap, whether they are submitted through the state agency or directly to the USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) Regional Office?

- Answer: Yes, tribal applications count towards the 15% per state funding cap. 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 that may be routed through a Forest Service Region.

Question: How would a project that implements a practice on the ground based on previous findings from ongoing research (but which is NOT research itself) be viewed if the research entity is involved as a partner doing the monitoring using only eligible non-federal, non-match funds?

- Answer: 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.

Question: What size of landscape is expected for these projects?

- Answer: There is no set geographic size expected.



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Question: Is there a match waiver for states with difficulty meeting the 1:1 match being considered like the Pacific Islands' match waiver?

- Answer: The match waiver for the Pacific Islands is set by law and waives match for up to \$200,000. Any other match waiver would need to be acquired directly from the Forest Service) Region.

Question: What are the LaSR reporting dates for last year's projects (FY 2020), and what will be the reporting date for this grant cycle's projects (FY 2021)?

- Answer: National FY 2020 reporting is due no later than December 29, 2020 (per the FY 2020 LSR National Guidance). Forest Service Regions may have their own deadlines in advance of that date. With the FY 2021 competitive grant cycle, the reporting timeframe is moved to October, 2021

Question: Do LSR projects have to be forestry-oriented or are other vegetative types okay?

- Answer: If LSR projects are clearly linked to the state Forest Action Plan (or an equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and to one or more Landscape Objectives, and are in line with the Cooperative Forestry program authorities, then projects could incorporate elements that might be relevant to other vegetation types. Be sure that the project abides by the definitions of "nonindustrial private forest land or State forest land" as outlined in the FY 2021 Western Guidance and National Guidance.

Question: Can the cross boundary requirement be met if project work occurs across federal ownership identified as leverage project work?

- Answer: Yes, but please be sure to clearly label funds as leverage as any grant or match funds must not be used on federal lands.

Question: Where can I find a map to determine eligibility for the rural requirement?

- Answer: Please see [here](#). Note that this map should not be used to determine eligibility for tribal land. However, it may be used as a reference to determine if project outcomes are focused on rural areas as defined in the FY 2021 Western Guidance and National Guidance.

Question: Tribes are now eligible under LSR. What tribal land qualifies?

- Answer: Section 8102 of the Farm Bill identifies land owned by an Indian Tribe in the definition of non-industrial private forest land. Indian Tribe is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304). Tribal trust land is land owned in fee by the U.S. and held in trust for an Indian Tribe. It is not land



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“owned” by an Indian Tribe as defined as eligible for LSR. Therefore, Tribal trust land does not qualify for LSR funds.

Question: What qualifies as an ‘equivalent state-wide restoration strategy’?

- Answer: As per the FY 2021 Western Guidance and National Guidance, an equivalent restoration strategy:
 - 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.

Applications that use an equivalent restoration strategy should address how the strategy is equivalent by addressing these factors within their application.

Question: How should a Tribal entity go about applying through a state agency or through the Forest Service?

- Answer: Tribal entities should contact the state in which the project is located to run their application through the state agency (total application limit per state is 5) or contact the Forest Service Region where the project is located for more information on working through the Forest Service (limit 2 tribal applications per state through the Forest Service). If the project spans more than one Forest Service Region, please contact each region to discuss what makes sense for your project for submission.

Question: Would National Forest staff have any role in developing proposals or administering the grant?

- Answer: National Forest staff can definitely play a role. Communication early can help demonstrate collaboration or other proximate projects that can help strengthen the proposal. Grant administration will happen at the State and Private Forestry Office in your Forest Service Region.

Question: Would a project that leads to the development of new (or updated) Forest Stewardship Plans be looked on more or less favorably as a project that stimulates on-the-ground treatments, without landowners having written Forest Stewardship Plans?

- Answer: This would depend upon your proposal. If you can demonstrate a clear need and closely follow the rubric, you could compete well. To score higher, add encouraged elements in addition to those elements required in the rubric.



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Question: Under Financial Requirements on page 7 there is a sentence that reads, "A non-state entity can receive funding through a state/island or directly." If entities seeking direct funding are going through the state for project application submission, and the entity has proven financial eligibility for direct funds, will the state see any funding for the work associated with the processing/submission of the applications? How will this affect reporting requirements? Considering the funds are tied to the Consolidated Payment Grant (CPG) which goes to states, how does this change affect this?

- Answer: If an eligible entity submits through a state and gets funded, then the Forest Service, state, and entity will discuss the best mechanism for funding. Traditionally, this has gone to the state/island through the CPG or separately, outside of the CPG, depending upon the state. With the expansion to additional entities, if the state does not want to administer the grant with the entity as a subgrantee, then the Forest Service can set up a grant or agreement with that entity separately (if they meet the financial requirements of direct granting with the Forest Service). The entity would do all of the paperwork associated with the grant if they are directly granted LSR funds. For both grant agreement reporting and project reporting, the recipient (the other eligible entity in this particular example) within the grant agreement would be required to fulfill those reporting requirements.

Question: Must Tribes be federally recognized to apply?

- Answer: Only federally recognized Tribes can apply directly to the Forest Service; state recognized Tribes would have to apply via the state.

Question: What do I do if the login information provided to the state forestry agency appears to not be working?

- Answer: If you are unable to login to the forestrygrants.org portal, a lockout may have occurred. After three failed login attempts, the system security locks the login. Sometimes this happens through no fault of the user trying to login, but merely due to the high security settings of the site. Please contact Danielle Okst at dokst@westernforesters.org if you are having any issues with your grant portal login.

Question: Forest Action Plans are being updated. Which version of the State Forest Action Plan should I use?

- Answer: Please check with the relevant state forest agency to determine which version of the State Forest Action Plan should be used as the basis of your LSR project proposal (if not utilizing an equivalent state-wide restoration strategy instead).



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Question: Can LSR funds or match funds be used for meeting costs for collaboratives?

- Answer: Post award meetings for the parties that will be performing the work to plan/coordinate can be covered by LSR or match funds. The meeting space and facilitation are acceptable covered costs, but not lunch. If counting payroll or time towards match, you must make sure this time/cost is well documented. There must be outcomes outside of the meeting itself, meaning that the collaborative meetings are not the sole focus or purpose of the proposal.
- Non-match leverage funds can be used for any other meetings costs (such as lunch).

Please be sure to consult your US Forest Service Region and WFLC staff early and often in the proposal process to ensure that your project meets all the requirements (before submitting applications through the online portal). Please see the Forest Service [LSR webpage](#) or Western Forestry Leadership Coalition [LSR webpage](#).