



FY 2022 Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Process

National Overview and Western Guidance

The purpose of the State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) codified the LSR competitive grant program. With that codification came several programmatic changes that have been fully implemented in the fiscal year (FY) 2022 LSR grant process. The proposed [Landscape Scale Restoration Manual \(FSM 3800\)](#) (National LSR Manual) provides national program requirements and will serve as the FY 2022 National Guidance until such time as the revised final directive is approved and released. The competitive process is “intended to support high impact projects that promote collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes, leverage public and private resources, and advance priorities identified in a State Forest Action Plan or other restoration strategy.”¹

Final proposals for the LSR Competitive Process are to be submitted online. Applications from all except Tribal entities must 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 alternately through the relevant Forest Service Regional Office. Each western State and Pacific Island Forester will receive an online application portal password from Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) staff for FY 2022. WFLC staff will also work with Forest Service staff to facilitate submission of Tribal applications 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 option in the online system to share, develop, and submit one proposal with multiple budgets. Non-state/island forestry agency entities should contact each relevant 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 USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) Region(s) to coordinate multi-state projects as outlined in the instructions below.

Submission deadline: All project proposals must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time on Friday, October 29, 2021. 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-2022-landscape-scale-restoration>

For more information, please contact:

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¹ Proposed [Landscape Scale Restoration Manual \(FSM 3800\)](#). The revised final directive is currently pending approval.

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

This document includes a summary of major provisions of the proposed [National LSR Manual](#) as applied to the West. It is NOT meant to substitute the National LSR Manual, but rather serve as a supplement to guide the application process in the western U.S.. All applicants should also carefully review the National LSR Manual, which can be found on the [western LSR webpage](#), as well as other information documents posted there. Applicants must abide by all requirements contained in the Western Guidance AND in the National LSR Manual.

Background of LSR

LSR replaced what was previously known as the Competitive Resource Allocation Process. After LSR was codified in the 2018 Farm Bill, the National LSR Manual was published in the Federal Register. This Forest Service Manual takes the place of the previously utilized yearly national guidance documents. 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 include or be proximate to other land 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.

S&PF Program 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.

- Some examples of Eligible Projects (non-exhaustive): Water quality and watershed health improvement; wildlife habitat improvement; demonstration projects that both achieve on-the-ground accomplishments for a specific area and also provide sites for conservation education and tech transfer; community tree planting projects in communities with a population of less than 50,000²; strategic outreach efforts to land managers/owners facing threats from urban sprawl, invasive species, and wildfire, and complementary efforts to improve rural prosperity, as long as the project also includes on-the-ground outcomes; cross-boundary fuels management projects that are adjacent to National Forest System lands; integrated efforts to improve management of nonindustrial private forest lands according to a State’s Forest Action Plan; wildfire fuels management projects; reducing wildfire risk in the wildland-urban interface to protect high-value assets such as drinking water and community infrastructure; survey, prioritization, and treatment to control invasive plants in a high-priority landscape; prevention and preparedness projects with on-the-ground impacts in advance of known invasive pests outbreaks; special surveys and technical assistance for forest health issues with needs that exceed the resources available through core Forest Health Program (FHP) funding (for such projects, applications must clearly show how and why the proposed activities complement the core FHP program in the state and must include on-the-ground outcomes); activities that engage the public in forest health work to achieve on-the-ground outcomes; or restoration of forests following damaging events..

² Conform to applicable Tree Planting Guidelines, which address accepted techniques for tree planting and maintenance. The number of trees to be planted, size of trees, and general description of the planting should be included in the application.

Priority Projects

Priority will be given to project proposals that include any of the following bulleted prioritization factors. Please see the scoring rubric at the end of this document to see the specific sections into which one or more of these priority factors should go into in order to receive priority points.

- Promote cross-boundary collaboration:
 - By their proximity to other land ownerships; or
 - By their inclusion of a combination of land ownerships, including tribal, State and local government, and private lands (such as, but not limited to, multiple private landowners; private and state landowners; state and federal landowners; state and local government; or state and Tribal landowners).
- Coordinate with or are in proximity to other complementary landscape-scale projects on National Forest System lands or lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or a state that are carried out:
 - Under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (16 U.S.C. 7303).
 - In landscape areas designated for insect and disease treatments under section 602 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591a).
 - Under the Good Neighbor Authority (16 U.S.C. 2113a).
 - Under the stewardship end result contracting and agreement authority (16 U.S.C. 6591c).
- Coordinate with or are in proximity to other complementary landscape-scale projects on State land.
- Coordinate with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and appropriate state-level programs.
- Leverage funding from multiple entities.

Executive Order 13985: “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government”: Projects are also encouraged to describe how communities/people that are historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty will be engaged, will benefit, or be supported from the project being proposed and how the project will increase equitable access.

Ranking and Recommendations

The western interagency LSR grants review team will review and score proposals. The review team is made up of 12 scorers, including six federal representatives, five state representatives, and one Pacific Island representative. State and island representatives rotate every three years; federal representatives serve as scorers for indefinite periods. No scorer may score any grant from their state or region. A computerized system generates a ranked list of proposals utilizing averaged scores from reviewers. The list of ranked projects is subsequently approved by the WFLC members and forwarded to the Forest Service Washington Office. Following determination of actual funding levels from annual appropriations, notices are sent from the Forest Service Washington Office to western S&PF Directors. A final list of funded projects is posted to the WFLC’s [LSR webpage](#) and all applications, reviewer comments, and the ranked scoring report are made publicly available at [forestrygrants.org](#).

Financial Award Requirements

A non-state/island entity can receive funding through a state/island or directly from the Forest Service. If an entity wishes to be directly granted funds, they will need to complete all Forest Service requirements and documentation to prove financial eligibility to receive federal funds directly, including completing a valid registration with the System Award Management (SAM) www.sam.gov annually. In these cases, entities must contact the relevant Forest Service Region prior to submission of their proposal to ensure they have completed and can demonstrate proof of completion of all financial eligibility requirements. Tribal entities may work through a state/island forestry agency or may coordinate with the Forest Service Region where the project is located to determine their optimal funding approach.

Multi-year projects

Multi-year projects will be fully funded in a single year, namely 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.

Reporting

All grant recipients are required to provide an annual report of accomplishments through the Landscape Scale Restoration (LaSR) database. Accomplishments will also be recorded spatially by identifying discrete areas where on-the-ground implementation occurs during the life of the project. This reporting is in addition to financial and performance reporting required by the grant.

Modifications to Grants

Modifications to competitively-awarded grants (whether the project is an individual grant or part of a consolidated payment grant (CPG)) is handled between the signatories of the grants (i.e., the respective applicant, the State Forester, and Forest Service authorized official). All efforts should be made to ensure substantive consistency with the initial application.

ELIGIBILITY, PROCESS, AND OTHER REQUIREMENTS

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)), Alaska Native Corporations, and universities are eligible to receive LSR funding. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply.

- Indian Tribe is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

Eligible Lands

Projects must achieve on-the-ground outcomes on rural forest land, which is also considered nonindustrial private forest land or State forest land or both (see [Proposed National LSR Manual](#)). 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. Please refer to the [LSR Project Planning Tool Project Eligibility Tab](#) to confirm if the on-the-ground outcomes area of the project conforms to the requirements of being rural per the definition above. The term non-industrial 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, other private legal entity, or an Indian Tribe. 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. Section 8102 of the Farm Bill identifies land owned by an Indian Tribe in the definition of non-industrial private forest land. Tribal trust land held in trust by the United States does not qualify as land owned by an Indian Tribe and is ineligible.

State Forest Actions Plans and Landscape Objectives

Projects MUST advance priorities identified in a [State Forest Action Plan](#) or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy that is:

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

A project proposal MUST be designed to achieve one or more of the following objectives³ (Landscape Objectives):

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires;
- Improve fish and wildlife habitats, including habitats for threatened and endangered species;
- Maintain or improve water quality and watershed functions;
- Mitigate invasive species, insect infestation, and disease;
- Improve important forest ecosystems;
- Measure ecological and economic benefits including air quality and soil quality and productivity; and/or
- Take other actions as determined by the Forest Service.

Proposals need to clearly state the link to a State Forest Action Plan or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy AND to achievement of one or more of the Landscape Objectives.

State Caps and Minimum and Maximum Funding Levels

Five (5) proposals total may be put forward for consideration from each state, which includes all eligible entities therein. The only exception to this state proposal limit are Tribal applicants opting for the Forest Service submission process. Tribal applicants are allowed two additional proposal submissions if they route applications directly through the Forest Service (i.e. not via the state and other partners' application process). The minimum funding request per project for all applicants is \$25,000 and the maximum is \$300,000. 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 from all entities therein, including Tribes, in order to ensure funds have a chance to be distributed across landscapes in the West. The 15% cap thus would apply to the five (5) proposals routed through the state forestry agencies combined with the two (2) Tribal applications routed through a Forest Service Region.

- As in past years, funding available to the West for FY 2022 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 15% per state maximum that may be awarded to one state as a geographic area (five state forestry submitted and two Forest Service Tribal applications) is anticipated to be approximately \$600,000.

Application Process

Entities wishing to apply should contact their state or island forestry agency regarding submission of an LSR proposal. State and island forestry agencies may have earlier submission deadlines to accommodate internal selection processes and identify the five applications to be submitted to the regional portal. It is therefore imperative to inquire as early as possible with the relevant state agency/agencies regarding interest in submitting a proposal. The state/island forestry agency will select the five most competitive applications to submit to the westwide competition via the online portal. The selection process may vary by state or island forestry agency. Only those proposals submitted to the regional grant portal by the state/island forestry agency in each state (or by the Forest Service in coordination with WFLC staff for tribal applications routed via that mechanism) 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 Forest Service 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 Forest Service will not count towards the state cap of five

³ Section 8102(e) of the 2018 Farm Bill and the National LSR Manual.

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 Forest Service Regional Office to determine the submission state. If a Tribal project is selected for funding through this process, the Forest Service Region will work directly with the Tribe on the grant award.

Multi-State Proposals

Please see the multi-state proposal [directions](#) for detailed information on how to submit a multi-state proposal. 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 receipt of 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, enabling applicants 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 “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). A multi-state proposal will count toward each state’s maximum submission of five, with each separate budget limited to a \$300,000 request. 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 alternatively 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, each with unique narratives.
- 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 Forest Service Region instead of the state/island agency, the Tribe(s) would work with the Forest Service 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.
- 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. As noted above, Tribes should likewise use this process or alternatively contact the Forest Service Region(s) where the Tribe and the project are located.

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 Pacific Island applicants to compete for portions of the set-aside funds. 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 be eligible for participation in the sub-competition and will compete and be funded within the regular Western LSR process. Any funding not used in the PI sub-competition will be returned to the regular Western LSR funding pool.

Matching Requirements

Match for the LSR grant program 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)), Alaska Native, Corporation, university, or Tribal grant recipient. For applications from the 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 \$500,000 is required as governed by statute.⁴

- Matching requirements for dollars awarded through the competitive allocation process will be handled consistent with 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).
- **Leverage:** A project proposal must maximize grant funding by using it to leverage contributions from non-Federal entities. Federal entities may contribute as non-match leveraged contributions. All contributions should be clearly identified as to their third party source and whether the contribution is match or (non-match) leverage funds. 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 Forest Service. Projects that leverage funding from multiple entities will be given priority.

Authorities and Allowable Costs

Project proposals must meet the requirements of S&PF Program Authorities (see previous section) and Office of Management and Budget cost principles. We encourage collaboration between applicants and the Forest Service to avoid eligibility issues. Below are some common cost related 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 meet all grant application 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 (Forest Service Region). Please make specific mention of 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. Equipment approvals will be only granted on equipment associated with the restoration of landscapes. The LSR program is not designed to upgrade equipment or to replace equipment that is outdated unless associated with a new restoration-based project.
- **Research activities** are not allowable costs. Basic research is defined in 2 CFR 422.1 as “Systematic study directed toward fuller knowledge or understanding of the fundamental aspects of phenomena and of observable facts without specific applications towards processes or products in mind.” Research involves testing a new theory or hypothesis, and the end product may be a new model that the researcher will be publishing. A research entity may 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

⁴ Note the proposed [Landscape Scale Restoration Manual \(FSM 3800\)](#) does not include the Territories of Guam and American Samoa, but the revised final directive (pending approval) will reflect the applicable statutes. The 1:1 match waiver on projects of \$500,000 or less is applicable to all six Pacific Islands, including the Territories of Guam and American Samoa. As of April 2021, the amount was changed from \$200,000 to \$500,000.

source as being from non-federal funds (not match or LSR grant funds). Projects that use S&PF dollars to fund research are considered ineligible. Note: Technical transfer, education, and outreach activities associated with applying research can be included in the application. Additionally, while a project proposal may include a component of outreach, education and training as a means to achieve the project objectives, education and outreach should not be the sole project outcome

APPLICATION

Please visit the western [LSR webpage](#) for online instructions, fillable application worksheet (for drafting and partner outreach use only - all applications must be completed and submitted through the [forestrygrants.org](#) grant portal), and other helpful reference documents.

Project Duration

A project proposal should indicate the duration of the project using the checkboxes within section 2. Project proposals can indicate a multi-year implementation timeframe of up to three (3) years. Funding, however, will be limited to delivery in the fiscal year of the application.

GIS Coordinates

Please follow the [GIS instructions](#) and ensure the on-the-ground outcomes fall within eligible rural land types as described earlier in this guidance.

Project Overview/Purpose Statement

The project overview should contain the location and importance of the landscape; landscape need; high level overview of main goals, objectives, and deliverables; collaboration; boundaries; jurisdictions; amount of funds requested and total project value; the relationship to a State Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy); and at least one of the Landscape Objectives. This section should show how the project will address LSR's purpose statement "to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes."

Context, Goals, and Objectives

Context should clearly identify priority landscapes and issues that are the focus of the project. Goals should be clearly explained and should relate to the Forest Action Plan or equivalent restoration strategy. The need for treatment of the landscape should be explained, and the goals of the project should be clearly addressed and linked to the needs. Describe how the proposal is designed to achieve one or more of the Landscape Objectives listed below. Link the project goals to the relevant Landscape Objective(s).

Landscape Objectives may include one or more of the following:

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires;
- Improve fish and wildlife habitats, including habitats for threatened and endangered species;
- Maintain or improve water quality and watershed functions;
- Mitigate invasive species, insect infestation, and disease;
- Improve important forest ecosystems;
- Measure ecological and economic benefits including air quality and soil quality and productivity; and/or
- Take other actions as determined by the Forest Service.

Proposed Activities and Budget

Clearly describe activities to be completed with LSR grant funds, match, and leveraged resources. All project expenditures should be explicitly identified and linked to the activity, which should link to project goals and objective(s). The source of match and non-match leveraged funds should be specified and costs should be well detailed. The financial contributions of partners should be documented clearly under match and non-match leverage. Projects that leverage match and non-match funding from multiple entities will be given priority. Please

note: any funds for construction, research, or other activities not allowable for grant or match; proposals MUST therefore clearly outline all funding sources. Projects that propose use of S&PF dollars or match to fund ineligible activities under S&PF authorities will be considered ineligible.

Deliverables and Outcomes

The deliverables (specific target/result) and outcomes (impact of completing the project) should relate to achievement of one or more Landscape Objectives and a goal, strategy, or desired future condition within the State Forest Action plan or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy. Clearly describe all planned deliverables and outcomes, how they relate to measurable science-based restoration of landscapes, and what metrics the applicant plans to use to measure progress towards these outcomes.

Each LSR project must accomplish at least one of the on-the-ground national quantitative measures listed below and may include additional specific measurable results. Proposed metrics should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. Successful projects will be required to measure progress towards their stated outcomes within the LaSR reporting system using these national quantitative measures.

Category	Description	Measure
Economic benefit	Board feet of timber (e.g. sawlogs or small diameter) produced that contribute to the forest products industry.	Board feet of forest products produced (timber)
Economic Benefit	Tons of biomass produced that contribute to the forest products industry.	Tons of forest products produced (biomass)
Hazardous Fuels Management	Acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels including prescribed fire, thinning and other actions that reduce hazardous fuels and mitigate fire risk.	Acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels
Insect and Disease Management	Acres treated for insects and disease including through chemical, mechanical, and biological actions that improve forest health conditions. This does not include acres surveyed.	Acres treated for insects and disease
Invasive Plant / Weed Management	Infested acres treated for invasive plants including chemical, mechanical, and biological actions that improve forest health conditions. This does not include acres surveyed.	Infested acres treated for invasive plants
Landowner Assistance	Private forest landowners reached through technical assistance. Include landowners known to have benefited in some significant and lasting way from the project through more than one interaction. This does not include a landowner who simply attended a technical or training session without any follow-up or were spoken to only once, such as over the phone, with no follow-up.	Private forest landowners reached through technical assistance
Silviculture (forest management)	Number of acres treated exclusive of other treatments already reported in another accomplishment field such fire and/or water quality treatments. This could include timber/forest stand improvements, reforestation, or afforestation associated with a forest management activity.	Acres of silvicultural practice exclusive of other reported treatments

Stewardship / Forest Management Planning	A forest management plan could include a Forest Stewardship Plan; CAP 106 plan, Tree Farm plan, tax abatement plan, equivalent state forest management plan or a landscape plan. If a landscape plan, the plan must focus on discrete/specific geography such as a watershed and does not apply to a state-wide landscape level plan.	Acres under new forest management plans
Water Quality Enhancement	Acres of trees and seedlings planted to enhance water quality including riparian buffers, floodplain restoration and other actions that enhance water quality.	Acres of trees and seedlings planted to enhance water quality
Water Quality Enhancement	Miles of riparian forest treated to enhance water quality including riparian buffer establishment or maintenance and other actions that enhance water quality. This does not include any structural enhancements or construction (e.g. culverts).	Miles of riparian forest treated to enhance water quality
Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	Acres of habitat treated to protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat. Threatened and endangered species that will benefit from project activities should be included in the narrative accomplishments.	Acres of habitat treated to enhance wildlife
Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	Miles of riparian forest treated to protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat. Threatened and endangered species that will benefit from project activities should be included in the narrative accomplishments.	Miles of riparian forest treated to enhance wildlife

Cross-Boundary Collaboration

Projects must 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 detailed under match (for eligible costs, entities, and lands) and additional non-match leveraged contributions (if non-match leveraged funds are included in a proposal) within the budget. Note that while collaboration and coordination with Forest Service or other public land management agencies is encouraged, grant awards can only be used for work on non-federal land. 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. Priority will be given to projects that do so. Projects promoting cross-boundary collaboration will also be given priority, whether through proximity to other land ownerships or by the inclusion of a combination of ownerships (including tribal, state and local government, and private lands (such as multiple private landowners, private and State landowners; state and federal landowners; state and local government; and state and Tribal landowners)) within the project area.

The application should address all applicable elements listed below and demonstrate use of coordination and partnerships with complementary state and federal programs to improve outcomes:

- Proposals should clearly identify partners that are actively engaged and add value towards project planning and implementation;
- Collaboration, both qualitative and quantitative, should be explained in detail. Some examples of how collaboration can be demonstrated include:
 - Regular meetings/dialogue of partners will be convened, describing how the project cultivates organization of partners/landowners around common goals/objectives, sharing of funding or resources, partnering on previous successful projects/history of prior collaborative work, explaining how the project generates commitment to working across boundaries for achievement of the project.

- Proposals should describe how the project promotes cross-boundary collaboration;
- Detail any coordination with or proximity to other complementary landscape-scale projects on National Forest System lands, or lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or a state, that are carried out under the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, the Good Neighbor Authority, stewardship end result contracting and agreement authority or in landscape areas designated for insect and disease treatments under section 602 of the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003;
- Detail any coordination with or are in proximity to other complementary landscape-scale projects on state land; and
- Detail any coordination with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) programs and appropriate state-level programs.

Forest Action Plan Integration

A proposal must demonstrate how the objectives of the project will help achieve the priorities in the State Forest Action Plan or other state-wide restoration strategy. Describe the need for the proposed project and relate it to one or more significant priority landscapes, issues, or strategies identified in the state Forest Action Plan or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy. Describe how the project will bring a state, region, or area to a desired future condition, goal, or strategy as articulated within the Forest Action Plan or equivalent state-wide strategy.

- If utilizing another state-wide restoration strategy, please detail the completeness, the multi-year period, accessibility by wood processing infrastructure, relevant scientific basis, and verify it covers non-industrial private forest land or state forest land as defined within the Western Guidance and the National LSR Manual.

Meaningful Scale

A project proposal must describe the project area, the land ownerships within the area, and specific areas targeted for treatment. The scale of a project must be the most appropriate size based on the land ownerships, objectives, and outcomes (including cross-boundary goals) for the landscape. Detail how the scale is sufficient to address the identified relevant priorities from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and the Landscape Objective(s) being addressed by the project. Clearly articulate the rationale for why the scale is meaningful.

Sustainability of Outcomes

Provide rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future, beyond project end date (some examples: enhanced skills or learning, replicability, future plans related to the State Forest Action Plan or equivalent restoration strategy which build upon this successful project, etc.). Explain how development and/or strengthening of partnerships may also be a means of supporting project outcomes beyond the project end date. Describe how the project results in resource sharing or cross-boundary collaboration or agreements (formalized agreements hold greater weight) that extend beyond the project period. Technical transfer is the sharing of knowledge, tools, and innovations for practical application. Projects must 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 should aim to share innovation across landscapes. 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.

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 S&PF authorities ⁵	Yes = Eligible	No = Ineligible
Meets the 1:1 non-federal match requirement ⁶	Yes = Eligible	No = Ineligible

Evaluation Criteria⁷

	4-5 pts - High	3 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
<p><i>Project Overview/Purpose Statement</i></p> <p><i>1,500 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 at least one Landscape Objective. 	<p>Provides a succinct and relevant project overview/purpose statement; clearly communicates the value of the project.</p> <p>Description covers all description elements listed in project overview instructions.</p>	<p>Summarizes the project but the value of the project is not clearly communicated. 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>

⁵ 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 LSR Manual 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.

⁶ 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. 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.

⁷ 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>Context, Goals, and Objectives</p> <p><i>2,500 Characters</i></p>	<p>Context clearly identifies priority landscapes and issues that are the focus of the project. Goals are explicitly explained. The need for treatment of the landscape is explained, and the goals of the project are clearly addressed, and linked to the needs. Describes how the proposal is designed to achieve one or more of the Landscape Objectives. The project goals are linked to the relevant Landscape Objective(s).</p>	<p>Project context and goals are present, but underdeveloped. The priority landscape and issues are not adequately explained. The need for treatment of the landscape and the goals of the project are mentioned but underdeveloped/ the linkage of the goals to the needs is not well established. A Landscape Objective is referenced, but how the project is designed to achieve that or the linkage to the goals are unclear or lacking.</p>	<p>Identification of priority landscapes and issues that are the focus are absent. Linkages between or entire reference to goals or landscape need are mostly absent. Description of how the proposal is designed to achieve a Landscape Objective is incomplete or absent.</p>

	14-20 pts - High	6-13 pts – Medium	0-5 pts - Low
<p>Proposed Activities and Budget</p> <p><i>3,250 characters</i></p> <p>Priority points will be awarded to projects that leverage funding from multiple entities.</p> <p>Please note: any funds for construction, research, or other activities not allowable for grant or match fund use MUST explicitly outline their funding source as non-match leverage funds. Projects that use S&PF dollars to fund ineligible activities under S&PF authorities will be considered ineligible.</p>	<p>Clearly describes activities to be completed with LSR grant funds requested and leveraged resources- both match and non-match. All project expenditures are explicitly identified and linked to the activity- which should link to your project goals and objective(s). The source of match and non-match funds are specified and costs are well detailed. The financial contributions of partners must be 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>Proposed metrics should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely.</p> <p>See on-the-ground national quantitative measures chart for specific outcome categories and metrics. High score requires planning to accomplish at least one.</p>	<p>Clearly describes all planned deliverables and outcomes, how they relate to measurable science-based restoration of landscapes, and what metrics the applicant plans to use to measure progress towards these outcomes. Clearly describes the on-the-ground metric to be used to measure progress and metrics used are SMART (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 on-the-ground metrics for progress are missing some elements of SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely).</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. Does not specify on-the-ground metrics to be used or metrics are missing all SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely) elements.</p>
<p><i>Cross-Boundary Collaboration</i></p> <p><i>3,250 Characters</i></p> <p>Priority points will be awarded to projects that: Promote cross-boundary collaboration (proximity to or inclusion of multiple land ownerships); and/or Coordinate with or are in proximity to other complementary landscape-scale projects on NFS lands or other lands under the jurisdiction of the state (specific programs outlined in ‘Priority Projects’ section); and/or Coordinate with or are in proximity to other complementary landscape-scale projects on State land; and/or Coordinate with NRCS programs and appropriate state-level programs.</p>	<p>Clearly identifies partners that are actively engaged and add value towards project planning and implementation. Describes sufficient factors demonstrating collaboration. 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. Projects that sufficiently describe partnership factors outlined within this box, but do not clearly describe at least one of the priority factors for cross-boundary coordination or collaboration to the left of this box will only be able to receive a maximum score at the lowest end of the high score range (10 points).</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 or coordination with other programs appears to exist. The project does not appear to have a cross-boundary impact (neither proximity to other land ownerships or inclusion of a combination of land ownerships).</p>

	7-10 pts - High	3-6 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
<p>Forest Action Plan Integration</p> <p><i>2,250 Characters</i></p> <p>If utilizing another state-wide restoration strategy, please detail the completeness, the multi-year period, accessibility by wood processing infrastructure, relevant scientific basis, and verify it covers non-industrial private forest land or state forest land as defined within the National LSR Manual</p>	<p>Proposal clearly demonstrates how the objectives of the project will help achieve the priorities in the State Forest Action Plan or other state-wide restoration strategy. Specifically describes the need for the proposed project and relates it to one or more significant priority landscapes, issues, or strategies identified in the state Forest Action Plan or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy. Well formulated description of how the project will bring a state, region, or area to a desired future condition, goal, or strategy as articulated within the Forest Action Plan or equivalent state-wide strategy.</p>	<p>Need for the project is apparent but underdeveloped and/or link of objectives to the state Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) is unclear. How the project will bring a state, region, or area to a desired future condition, goal, or strategy as articulated within the Forest Action Plan or equivalent state-wide strategy is lacking.</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</p> <p><i>2,000 Characters</i></p>	<p>Provides complete description of the project area, the land ownerships within the area, and specific areas targeted for treatment. Clearly describes why the scale of the project is the most appropriate size based on the land ownerships, objectives, and outcomes (including cross-boundary goals as applicable) for the landscape. Details how the scale is sufficient to address the identified relevant priorities from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and the Landscape Objective(s) being addressed by the project. The rationale for why the scale is meaningful is clearly articulated.</p>	<p>Provides description of the project area, the land ownerships within the area, and specific areas targeted for treatment. Missing some elements in describing why the scale of the project is the most appropriate size based on the land ownerships, objectives, and outcomes (including cross boundary goals) for the landscape. Description of how the scale is sufficient to address the identified relevant priorities from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and the Landscape Objective(s) being addressed by the project may be lacking. Rationale for why the scale</p>	<p>Lacks proper description of the project area, the land ownerships within the area, and specific areas targeted for treatment. Description of why the scale of the project is the most appropriate size based on the land ownerships, objectives, and outcomes (including cross boundary goals) for the landscape or of how the scale is sufficient to address the identified relevant priorities from the Forest Action Plan (or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy) and the Landscape Objective(s) being addressed is absent. Overall, does not make the case for why the scale is appropriate and meaningful.</p>

		is meaningful is limited or explanation lacks clarity.	
	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 must 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>Please note: While projects may include a component of outreach, education, and training as a means to achieve the project goals, these should not be the sole outcome.</p>	<p>Provides rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future beyond project end date. Explains how development and/or strengthening of partnerships may also be a means of supporting project outcomes beyond the project end date (project may result in resource sharing or cross-boundary collaboration or agreements (formalized agreements hold greater weight) that extend beyond the project period).</p> <p>Project must describe how others will learn from project implementation including the project’s potential to inform practitioners and enhance the effectiveness of similar initiatives (see ‘technical transfer definition within left box). High scoring projects will clearly outline this technical transfer element.</p>	<p>Rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future beyond project end date is limited or not clearly explained. Sustainability with regard to partnerships is underdeveloped. Technical transfer may be mentioned, but the proposal does not effectively describe how it will enhance the effectiveness of similar initiatives.</p>	<p>Rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future beyond project end date is severely lacking. No technical transfer described.</p>