



**WESTERN FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP COALITION**

FY2021 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program Informational Webinar

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Agenda

- What is LSR
- National Direction
- Roles: WFLC, State, and Federal
- FY 2021 Western Guidance (from eligibility to project selection)
- Reporting Requirements



What is LSR

- Developed by pooling a portion of allocations for states from four base programs (Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health-Cooperative Lands, and State Fire Assistance) to create a competitive grant program for innovative projects enhancing the base programs
- Administered through a joint effort between the Forest Service and regional state forestry organizations
- 2014 LSR annual appropriations



National Direction

- 2018 Farm Bill codification
- Establish a competitive grant program to provide financial and technical assistance to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes
- FY 2020 interim year
- FY 2021 'interim 2.0'



FY 2020 Interim Guidance

- Provided a definition of rural as anything other than an urbanized area, such as a city or town, with a population greater than 50,000
- Incorporated the Farm Bill definitions of non-industrial private forest land and state forest land (see 2018 Farm Bill section (b) Definitions)
- Encouraged projects that are cross-boundary
- Encouraged proximity to other landscape-scale projects on federal or state lands
- Replaced National Themes with encouraged Landscape/Resource Objectives



FY 2021 Guidance

- ‘Interim 2.0’
- Still incorporates the focus on rural lands and the Farm Bill definitions of non-industrial private forest land and state forest land
- Projects shall address one or more of the Landscape/Resource Objectives
- Projects are cross-boundary
- Expansion of eligible entities
- Proposals must be based on State Forest Action Plan OR an equivalent restoration strategy



WFLC Role

- Partnership between our 17 State and 6 Territorial Forester members (CWSF) and 7 Regional Directors, 3 Research Station Directors, and 1 Products Laboratory Director (USDA Forest Service)
- Forestrygrants.org
- LSR Grant Scoring Team



State/Island Role

- Outreach
 - State Outreach Document
 - Island Outreach Document
- Project selection process
- LSR Worksheet
- Input final applications into the grant portal
- <https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program/fy-2021-landscape-scale-restoration>



Federal Role (Regional Level)

- Pre-award: Assist with project development
 - Assist with outreach efforts
 - Answer questions regarding program authorities
 - Review application drafts
 - Submit applications on behalf of Tribes
- Post-award: Project oversight
 - Review progress in regards to deliverables, timing, funding
 - Ensure compliance with federal regulations and program authorities
 - Review/approve annual reports and project modifications



FY 2021 Western Guidance

- 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
- Tribal application process
- 5 application per state limit (with the additional 2 per state USFS routed Tribal applications)



Rural Requirement

- Projects should focus on rural forest land which is also considered nonindustrial private forest land or State forest land
- Rural: any area other than an urbanized area such as a city or town that has a population of greater than 50,000 inhabitants (2010 Census)
- Nonindustrial private forest land: (A) is rural as defined above; (B) has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees; and (C) is owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe, or other private legal entity
- State forest land: (A) is rural as defined above; (B) is under State or local government ownership and considered to be non-Federal forest land



Rural Requirement Continued

- Projects must focus on-the-ground outcomes on rural forest land
- LSR Project Planning Tool
 - Project Eligibility Tab
 - <https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=9836f6c2eddc45b4aaffd2ef96be426d>



Research Activities

- Research related activities are prohibited from being paid for with LSR grant funds
- Research: testing a new theory or hypothesis that will be published; end product may be a new model
- Partner can be a research entity
 - contribution would need to clearly be labeled as non-match leverage
- For any research items, project description **MUST** explicitly outline the source as non-federal and they must not be used as match funds
- Improperly sourced funding used for research is an ineligible project



FY 2021 Changes

- 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.
- 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.



FY 2021 Changes: Forest Action Plan or Equivalent Strategy

- 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.



FY 2021 Changes: Landscape Objectives

- Projects shall address one or more of the objectives outlined below:
 - Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires;
 - Improve fish and wildlife habitats, including for threatened and endangered species;
 - Maintain or 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.



Project Eligibility: SPF Program Authorities

- Forest Stewardship Program
- Rural Forestry Assistance
- Urban and Community Forestry (rural areas)
- Forest Health Protection (non Federal lands)
- Community and Private Land Fire Assistance (State Fire Assistance)
- As outlined in the [Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978](#)



Forest Stewardship Program

- Purpose:
 - Assist landowners to actively manage land/resources
 - Keep land in a productive and healthy condition
 - Increase economic benefits of land while conserving natural environment
- Partial List of Activities:
 - Provide technical assistance
 - Deliver education programs
 - Develop/enroll in Forest Stewardship Plans (or similar)
- [National Program Standards and Guidelines](#)



Rural Forestry Assistance

- Purpose:
 - Assist landowners to actively manage land/resources
 - Keep land in a productive and healthy condition
 - Increase economic benefits of land while conserving natural environment
- Partial List of Activities:
 - Conduct silvicultural activities
 - Produce, deliver, and plant tree seeds and seedlings
 - Protect or improve soil fertility
- [National Program Standards and Guidelines](#)



Urban and Community Forestry (rural)

- Purpose:
 - Improve condition and extent of community trees and forests
 - Promote and expand social, economic, and ecologic benefits they provide in cities, suburbs, and towns
- Partial List of Activities:
 - Plan and implement community forestry programs
 - Plant, maintain, and protect trees for public benefit
 - Provide technical assistance and educational programs
- [National Program Guidelines](#)



Forest Health Protection (non Fed lands)

- Purpose:
 - Maintain, enhance, and restore healthy forest conditions
 - Promote stability of forest-related industries and resources
- Partial List of Activities:
 - Survey, monitor, and manage infestations of native and non-native forest insects and disease
 - Develop, promote, and implement integrated pest management approaches
 - Monitor indicators of forest health
 - Provide outreach and educational programs



Community and Private Land Fire Assistance (State Fire Assistance)

- Purpose:
 - Promote optimal fire-fighting efficiency
 - Establish landscape level protection from wildfires
 - Protect communities from wildfire threats
- Partial List of Activities:
 - Mitigate and prevent fuel hazards
 - Manage invasive species
 - Provide education and technical assistance related to community protection



Unauthorized Activities

- Construction (buildings, roads, culverts)
 - In-stream structures or channel realignment
 - Purchase of land
 - Research (new theory, hypothesis, model)
-
- All activities included as matching funds must fall within eligible SPF Program Authorities



Budget: Match Requirement

- A 1:1 match for all amounts from the non-Pacific Island grant recipients is required
- A 1:1 on funds received in excess of \$200,000 for territorial, flag islands, and freely associated states
- Cash and in-kind contributions for project elements that do not fall within SPF program authorities may not be used as match
- Project Max: 300,000 per proposal and a 15% cap of all funding for the West (generally approximately a cap of \$600,000)



Leverage

- Other “non-match” leveraged funds do not need to meet the same standards of falling under SPF authorities (e.g., may include funds for construction, funds from other federal partners, research related funds).
- Projects should maximize SPF 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.



Pacific Island Sub-Competition

- 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.
- 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.



Submission Process

- Pre-process for state submissions
- [Forestrygrants.org](https://forestrygrants.org)
- Limit of 5 per state including ALL entities
- Tribes:
 - Through state forestry agency: 5 application limit applies
OR
 - Through relevant Tribal or LSR official in the USFS Region where the Tribe and its project are located: 2 per state limit



Multi-State Proposals

- Counts towards each state's maximum submission of five, with each separate budget limited to a \$300,000 request
- Scored as a single application
- May submit as multi-state or submit individual state-by-state applications
- 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



Project Selection

- Final proposals due into portal by **October 30** at 1 PM MT
 - PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN DUE DATE FROM THE ORIGINAL SEPTEMBER DUE DATE
- LSR Grants Review Team
 - Training at the end of August
- Scoring Opens: November 4
- Scoring Closes: December 15
- Approval: January 15
- WFLC sends project rankings to Washington Office
- Funding adjustments



Requirement Affirmation

- “Submitting affirms proposal abides by all eligibility/authority/requirements within in FY21 National and Western Guidance.”
- What does this mean?
 - Eligibility
 - Direct granting financial requirements
 - Rural
 - Pre-approvals were acquired when requested
- 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.



Strong Proposal Suggestions

- Follow rubric and instructions to the letter
- Clear intent and content
- Score higher by including the encouraged elements
 - Leveraging multiple sources
 - Addressing multiple landscape objectives
 - Making linkages to the Forest Action Plan (required) AND additional plans to strengthen the need/priority (recommended)



Reporting: Two Requirements

- Grant/Agreement:
 - Focuses on use of federal funds
 - Primary audience: grant monitor
 - Retained in grant/agreement file
- Project:
 - Focuses on project impact
 - Primary audience: general public
 - Upon approval, [available online](#)



Reporting: Grant/Agreement

- Annual report, consisting of:
 - Financial report of funds expended (grant and match)
 - Performance report relating financial data to performance accomplishments (narrative description)
- Due annually to USFS Regional Office
 - Interim reports due March 31 during grant/agreement period
 - Final reports due 90 days after grant/agreement end date
- Submission details included in grant/agreement



Reporting: Project

- Annual update to public Project Report, focusing on:
 - Accomplishments to date
 - Deliverables in progress
 - Challenges
 - Quantitative accomplishments
- Due annually to USFS Washington Office in Oct
 - Grant monitor will provide Regional due date to ensure monitor has time to review and approve



Reporting: Project, cont.

- Submitted through LaSR database
 - Credentials required
 - Annual training webinars and Help Desk available
- Grant monitor will set up project in LaSR database using project proposal
- Grant recipient will:
 - Edit info (as needed)
 - Add spatial extent of project (Impact Area Map)
 - Add annual accomplishments



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Questions?

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