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=9836f6c2edd45b4aaffd2ef96be426d
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](#)
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
• 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
Questions?

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