FY2022 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program Informational Webinar

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Agenda

- What is LSR and Roles of WFLC, State/Island, and USDA Forest Service

- FY 2022 Western Guidance

- Eligibility

- Submission Process

- Authorized Activities

- Budget

- Application

- Scoring/Tips
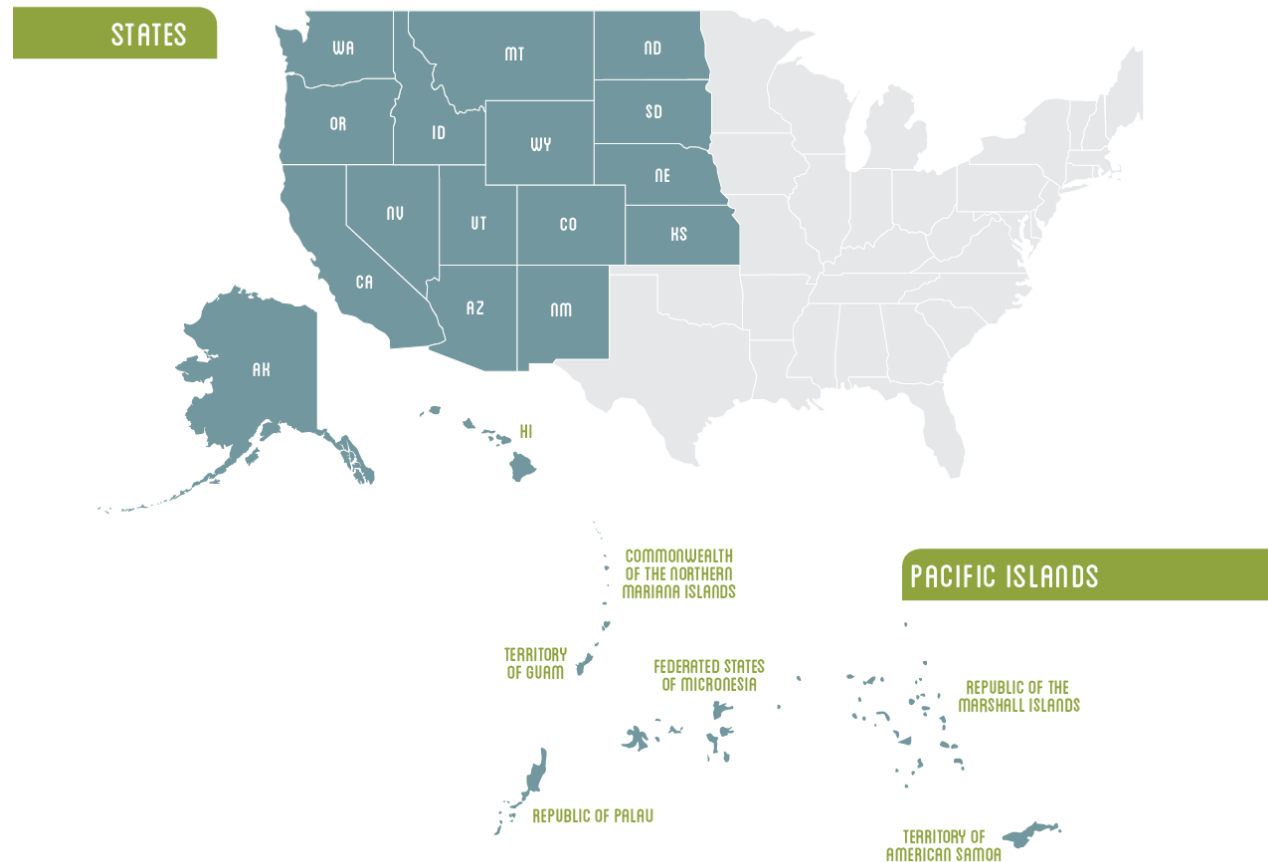
- Reporting and Resources

- Q&A

What is LSR

- Competitive grant program that promotes collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and furthers priorities identified in state Forest Action Plans

- 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

- 2018 Farm Bill codification

WFLC Role

State/Island Role

- Project selection process

- LSR Worksheet

- Input final applications into the grant portal (5 per state)

- https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program/fy-2022-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

FY2022 Western Guidance

- Public comment period for the LSR Forest Service Manual (FSM)
  - [National LSR Manual (FSM 3800)](#)
- Some of the changes:
  - Priority project factors
  - Required quantitative accomplishments;
  - Project minimum
  - Engagement of underserved or marginalized communities
  - Reorganization of guidance and tightening up of application

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

Land Eligibility

- Projects must achieve on-the-ground outcomes 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

- 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, other private legal entity, or Indian Tribe

- 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
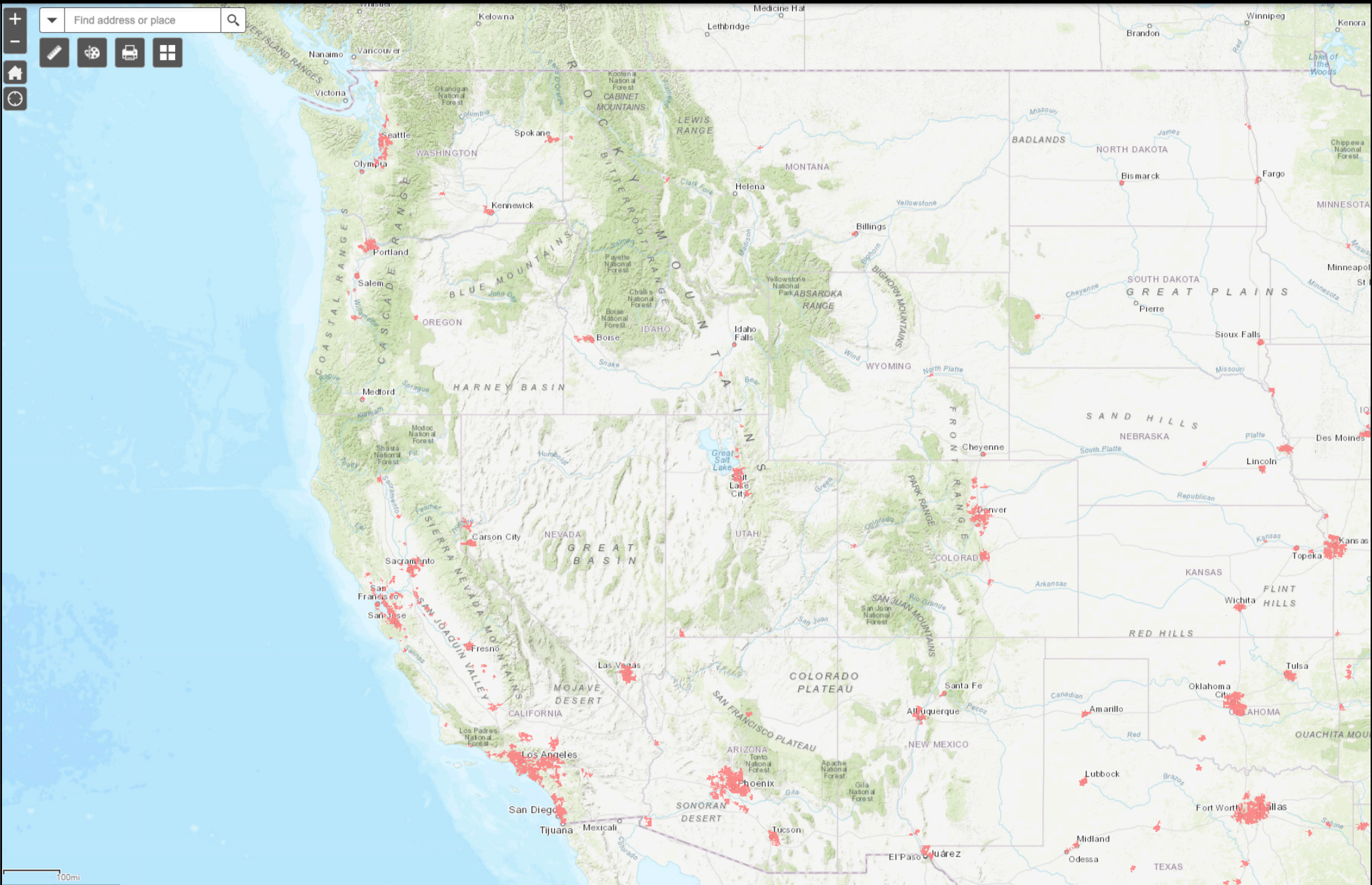
Rural Requirement

- Projects must achieve 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

Landscape Scale Restoration Project Planning Tool

Project Eligibility   Project Planning

USDA Landscape Scale Restoration Project Eligibility   US Forest Service   Landscape Scale Restoration

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/LSR official in the USFS Region where the Tribe and its project are located: 2 per state limit

- https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/FY22%20LSR%20Tribal%20Info.pdf

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 or US Forest Service if submitting in that manner for Tribes

Requirement Affirmation

- "Submitting affirms proposal abides by all eligibility/authority/requirements within in FY22 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.

Project Eligibility: State and Private Forestry (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 requested grant funds AND matching funds must fall within eligible SPF Program Authorities

Research Activities

- Research related activities are prohibited from being paid for with LSR grant funds

- Research: testing a new theory or hypothesis end product may be a new model that will be published

- 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

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 **$500,000** 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 Limits: $25,000-$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.

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

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.

Quantitative Accomplishments

- Economic Benefit
- Hazardous Fuels Management
- Insect and Disease Management
- Invasive Plant/Weed Management
- Landowner Assistance
- Silviculture
- Stewardship/Forest Management Planning
- Water Quality Enhancement
- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement
- https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/LSR%20Quantitative%20Accomplishments%20Requirements.pdf

Priority Project Points

- 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; 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; and/or

- Leverage funding from multiple entities.

Evaluation Criteria

	4-5 pts - High	3 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
Project Overview/Purpose Statement **1,500 Characters** Description includes: • 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.	Provides a succinct and relevant project overview/purpose statement; clearly communicates the value of the project. Description covers all description elements listed in project overview instructions.	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.	Does not effectively summarize the proposed project. Does not include many of the description elements required for a high score.

Strong Proposal Suggestions

- Follow rubric and instructions to the letter

- Clear intent and content

- Readable organization and formatting

- Score higher by including the priority elements

- Look to forestrygrants.org to view previous grants and comments

- Reach out to your state/USDA Forest Service Contacts

Project Selection

- Open now: check with state agency for earlier internal deadlines

- Final proposals due into portal by **October 29** at 5 PM MT

- LSR Grants Review Team
  - Virtual training in September/October

- Scoring Opens: November 4

- Scoring Closes: December 16

- Approval: January

- WFLC sends project rankings to Washington Office

- Funding adjustments

Reporting Webinar

- LaSR accomplishments reporting webinar September 9

- https://www.formap.info/user-guides-webinars/

- Previous year recordings and the recently updated LaSR User Guide

Resources

- https://www.forestrygrants.org/westernLSR/

- https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/landscape-scale-restoration

- https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program/fy-2022-landscape-scale-restoration
  - National LSR Manual
  - FY 2022 Western Guidance
  - Online Instructions
  - GIS Instructions
  - FY 2022 Application Worksheet
  - FY 2022 FAQ- **Look for an update within the week!**
  - Multi-state instructions
  - Tribal Applicant Information
  - Quantitative Accomplishments

Questions?

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