UTAH
FY 2024 LSR PROGRAM
COMPETITIVE GRANTS

The Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Program is one of the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire & State Lands (FFSL) Cooperative Forestry Programs in partnership with the USDA Forest Service - State & Private Forestry. In 2008, the Forest Service began developing a competitive grants program for state forestry agencies to develop and implement collaborative landscape-scale forest restoration projects. The LSR competitive grants process for Western states has been developed and administered by the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC). In 2021, FFSL adapted its LSR competitive grants process in Utah, consistent with new federal policies that allow local governments, nonprofit organizations, Tribes, and universities to participate in the LSR grant program.

FFSL administers the grant applications process, grant awards process, and the grant reporting process for the LSR Program in Utah, in cooperation with WFLC and the Forest Service. FFSL's LSR grants process includes:

- Pre-proposal—Because each state in the Western LSR grant competition is limited to five applications, FFSL created a new subcommittee within Utah's Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee to assist with a process to review pre-proposals and select five for full-proposal development and submission.
- Timeline— The FFSL timeline for the grant process in Utah provides an opportunity to engage interested entities in the pre-proposal review and selection process. The timeline provides guidance on developing a pre-proposal, the selection of five projects for proposal submission, and the process of final proposal writing and submission of the five chosen applications. The process of refining the final applications enhances the opportunity for Utah's five proposals to be successful in the Western states' competition.
- FFSL's administrative responsibilities—FFSL has established policies for administering the LSR Program with eligible entities. These responsibilities relate to administering:
    - The LSR grant application process within the State;
    - The receipt of grant funds from the Forest Service and distribution to entities selected for LSR grant awards; and,
    - The collection and reporting of LSR project outcomes to the Forest Service.

LSR Pre-Proposal for FY 2024

For the FY 2024 LSR grant process, FFSL has developed a Pre-Proposal Form for interested and eligible entities to develop and frame potential LSR project proposals. FFSL may submit up to five full proposals from Utah for scoring and ranking in the competition for LSR grant funding among Western states. The purpose of Pre-Proposals is for FFSL, with assistance from a new LSR subcommittee of Utah's Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee, to review and select up to five Pre-Proposals for full-proposal development. To help ensure strong submissions from the State, FFSL's LSR Program staff will provide further guidance to entities selected to develop and submit full proposals.

The FY 2024 LSR Pre-Proposal Form is located below. Completed forms are due to FFSL by

April 25th. FFSL will notify successful applicants by May 16th for the opportunity to develop and submit full proposals.

LSR Program and Full LSR Proposals

The Pre-Proposal Form is designed to provide a general description of the proposed project. The Pre-Proposal Form is the first step in the grant writing process which will lead to the Final LSR Full-Proposal. The LSR grant process and proposal forms have been in continual development for more than a decade. They are complex, and potential applicants are encouraged to review them carefully. WFLC's most recent guidance (FY 2023) for proposals is attached below, along with grant and budget information specific to Utah FFSL. Utah FFSL FY 2023 Full-Proposal is included as an example of what the final FY2024 Full-Proposal Form may look like.

Current information about the LSR Program, the grant process, and examples of LSR grant proposals from previous years can be found on WFLC's website at:

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

Please contact Bill Zanotti, FFSL Forestry Programs Coordinator, if you have any questions about Utah FFSL's process for FY 2024 LSR competitive grants.

Bill Zanotti
billzanotti@utah.gov
435-260-9809

Utah 2024 LSR Pre-Proposal Form

Project Title:

Name and organization of applicant:

Partnering Agencies/Organizations:

Project Location; Describe the general geographical location of the project area.

Briefly give an overview of the Project; What are the main goals and objectives, and expected outcomes?

Utah 2024 LSR Pre-Proposal Form

How is this project related to Utah's Forest Action Plan? Describe the need for the proposed project and relate it to one or more priority landscapes, issues, areas, or strategies identified in the Forest Action Plan.

Proposed Activities; Clearly describe activities to be completed with grant funds and leveraged resources.

Cross-Boundary Collaboration; Identify partners that are actively engaged and add value towards project planning and implementation.

Timeline For Utah 2024 LSR Proposals	
March 25, 2023	Announcement of request for Pre-Proposals
April 25, 2023	Pre-Proposals due; FSCC subcommittee reviews and ranks Pre-Proposals
May 16, 2023	LSR applicants notified of whether to move forward with Full-Proposals
August 1, 2023	Applicants submit draft of the Full-Proposals to FFSL for review and comments
September 1, 2023	FFSL will provide edits and comments to applicants
October 13, 2023 (estimate)	Submit final Full-Proposals to FFSL so FFSL can prepare them for submission into Western Forestry Leadership Coalition's LSR Website.
October 27, 2023 (estimate)	FFSL submits Full-Proposals to Western Forestry Leadership Coalition for the Western States competition
November 2023	Western States Grant Review Teams scoring/ranking process
January 2024	Anticipated funding lists announced for LSR funding (funding not guaranteed)
June 2024	Dependent on congressional appropriations, LSR funding is awarded
July 1, 2024	Develops partner agreements to begin LSR project work

UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS OF TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Prior to developing your project proposal, carefully read the following. This form must be completed and signed by an authorized representative of the proposing entity and submitted with the project proposal. Initial each line indicating an understanding of terms and conditions associated with applying for grants administered by the Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands (FFSL). If there are any questions or concerns, please contact Bill Zanotti, Forestry Programs Coordinator, at billzanotti@utah.gov.

_____ _____

Name of Proposing Organization **Name of Project**

The proposing organization understands and acknowledges the following terms and conditions:

_____ **Federal Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards:**
As a grantee your organization will be subject to 0MB guidance in **2** CFR Part 200 and 2 CFR Part 400. For more information, please refer to: https://www.whjtehouse.gov/omb/ and https://www.ecfr.gov

_____ The proposal grantee must have legal authority to receive a grant and enter into an award, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project, which includes having sufficient funds to pay the nonfederal share of project costs, where applicable.

_____ **Reimbursement Basis Only:**
All grant funding sought through the FFSL, if awarded, is provided to organizations through a reimbursement basis only. Proposal grantees are required to pay vendors/contractors prior to seeking renumeration from the UDFFL. Reimbursement terms and conditions are outlined in a signed agreement between the FFSL and the cooperator specifically addressing the allocation of costs and their allowability and reasonableness.

_____ The proposal grantee must have financial systems, policies and procedures regarding proper accounting controls, recordkeeping procurement, fraud prevention, and grants management in place (certification thereof will be required if awarded funding). Additionally, an Audit Status Certification form may be requested.

_____ The proposal grantee must have a tax ID number and an active 9-diqit Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number. This is required in order to receive funding.

_____ The proposal grantee will be required, if awarded, to certify that it has not been debarred, is not using funding for lobbying or construction, and that it has a drug free workplace policy in place.

UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS

Indirect Costs:
The following options will be made available to your organization if your project is chosen for funding. You are not required to elect an option at this time. However, understanding your options now will help inform a future decision if the project is awarded funding. If you elect to claim indirect funds, your award amount will not be increased by the amount of indirect claimed.

- Option A: Your organization will not seek reimbursement of indirect costs for this grant project
- Option B: Your organization has a negotiated indirect cost rate agreement (NICRA) with a federal cognizant audit agency (a copy of the approved Indirect Cost Negotiation Agreement will need to be provided to the FFSL).
- Option C: Your organization will elect a 10% de minimis indirect cost rate of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) on this grant as allowed under 2 CFR §200.414 (f).
- Option D: Your organization may request to negotiate an indirect cost rate directly with FFSL and will develop an indirect cost rate proposal for FFSL consideration. Note that the indirect cost rate calculations and proposal must comply with the latest Office of Management and Budget (OMB) regulations and requirements.

Match Requirements:
The proposing organization will be required, as part of the project proposal budget, to identify a match amount of at least 100% of the total project amount cost when submitting a proposal for Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) grants.
Example:
Total grant funds requested = $240,000
Total required match to be provided by the proposing organization = minimum $240,000

Match activities are most often accomplished through landowner meeting participation and education, landowner defensible space work/firewood collection, and volunteer tree planting projects. However, this list is not all inclusive. For specific match activity related questions, please contact Bill Zanotti at billzanotti@utah.gov.

Forest Practices Act Compliance:
All projects, if funded, will be required to follow the Utah Forest Practices Act and associated administrative rules when implementing project related activities in forestlands. For further information, please visit
https://ffsl.utah.gov/forestry/utah-forest-practices-act/

I hereby understand and acknowledge that the above terms and conditions are associated with the included project proposal and that our organization and project, if awarded funding, will be required to comply and respond accordingly.

Clearly Print Name and Title **Signature** **Date**

UTAH DIVISION OF FORESTRY, FIRE AND STATE LANDS (FFSL)

Grant Project-Budget Development Guidelines and Restrictions

Applicants seeking grant funding from the Utah Division of Forestry (FFSL) are required to submit a project budget prior to being awarded funding. The budget includes grant funded expenses and those necessary to meet the required match with FFSL. To be reimbursed, all expenses must be allowable, allocable to specific project activities or costs, reasonable and necessary. Consult federal cost principles for additional requirements (http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb and http://www.ecfr.gov).

FFSL will review your budget to determine whether proposed costs are allowable and reasonable. Estimated expenditure amounts should be comparable to or reflect regional market rates. When projects are evaluated and ranked, wise use of funds and anticipated return on investment in the form of meaningful, lasting, and measurable outcomes will be considered.

If the project is funded, FFSL will enter into a binding Agreement (Memorandum of Understanding or Cooperative Agreement in the form of a subgrant) with applicants if the applicants have the capability to manage the grant funds and the implementation. This agreement will dictate grant funding parameters- including those documented below, specify the project scope, budget, reimbursement process, and reporting requirements. If the applicant does not have the capability to manage the funds or the implementation, then FFSL will manage the grant in-house in cooperation with the applicant.

REFER TO THE FOLLOWING WHEN DEVELOPING BUDGET DETAIL

Contractor Expenses	***Expenses incurred by grantee for work accomplished through contracts with other entities, usually specialized contractors or consultants (e.g., loggers, forester consultants, arborists, or irrigation installers)*** • **Contracts must be awarded/solicited on a competitive basis and in accordance with associated procurement rules, procedures and internal controls. Recipients will need to ascertain that contractors have not been debarred from receiving federal funding.**
Flat Fee	***A method of establishing/negotiating a "standard rate" for service, product or project scope item on a project*** • **The flat fee method for establishing project costs for grantee (e.g. for staff to administer the grant or to develop and conduct workshops) will not be accepted**
Hold-Back	***The percent of the total awarded funding that is held back (retained) by FFSL until the recipient fully and satisfactorily completes the project as stipulated in the Agreement. A holdback helps assure that all grant funds are not exhausted prior to completion of the project scope/deliverables.*** • **Up to 15% of grant funds may be held back by FFSL. In practice, this would likely only impact the last (or last few) reimbursement requests.** • If **the project is not completed satisfactorily, the held back funds may be permanently withheld**

Ineligible Costs	*Expenses or activities for which recipient cannot be reimbursed* • Equipment-that costs $5,000 or more and has a life expectancy of at least one year • Other Activities-Construction, research or activities on federal land • Note: Activities ineligible for grant funds can be used as project leverage
Indirect Costs	*Costs that benefit common activities and, therefore, cannot be readily assigned to a specific direct cost objective or project. Examples of such costs include: accounting personnel services performed within the recipient organization, use allowances on buildings and equipment, and the costs of operating and maintaining facilities.* • No more than 10% of reimbursed direct expenses are eligible for reimbursement as indirect costs • Indirect rate requests must not exceed your federal cognizant agency approved indirect rate. If applicant does not have such an approved rate, then they may use their organization's actual internally calculated indirect cost rate (a ratio or percentage of an organization's total indirect costs to its direct cost base) subject to the 10% maximum. • For example, if an applicant's cognizant rate for indirect is 5%, they are limited to 5% for indirect. If their rate is 30%, they are limited to 30%. • The amount of actual on-the-ground work funded with grant dollars is considered when proposals are evaluated for funding. If you can successfully complete the project without charging indirect, it may help it compete better. • Note: recipient personnel working on specific grant tasks, like project management or oversight, cannot be paid with indirect funds. Personnel, must positive time-record their activities and charge the grant for their time under personnel expenses and be reimbursed as direct project costs.
Match	*Project costs that will be paid for or provided in-kind by applicant and will not be reimbursed with grant funds. This includes in-kind or cash donations of/for services, equipment, products, etc. that assist in the completion of the recipient's funded project or directly contributes to its purpose.* • A 100% match will be required and must be documented at time of reimbursement for LSR grants (i.e., 100% or more of the total amount reimbursed for the grant). • Recipient match is preferred. However, if this is not possible, in-kind or cash contributions made by other entities can count toward the match, but must be tracked and reported by recipient. • Ineligible match is the same as ineligible costs as shown above.
Operating Expenses	*Purchases of materials, goods/products or travel needed to accomplish the intent and purpose of the specific project. Examples include: supplies, tools, trees and related planting materials, irrigt1tion parts, and equipment rental fees.* • All operating expenses should be necessary and specific to this project • Ensure operating expenses are not already included or factored into the applicant's indirect cost rate. If certain expenses are customarily categorized as indirect expenses, they cannot be counted as operating expenses.
Payment of Grant Expenses	*Recipients will need to request funds by submitting an FFSL Reimbursement Request Form, progress narrative/report, invoices/receipts, copies of deliverables, and other supporting documentation as specified within the Agreement.* • All payments are made on a reimbursement basis only. These are expenses incurred and paid for by recipient prior to reimbursement by FFSL. • Submission of progress/accomplishment reports will be required with reimbursement requests. Depending on the project, additional reports may be requested.

Program Income	***Any income recipient derives from the project such as for the sale of product (timber, waste wood, chips etc.), registration fees, etc. must be itemized, reported and deducted from any reimbursement requests made to FFSL.*** • Procedures to track all project expenses (grant funded and not) as well as the income received makes documenting and reporting at reimbursement time easier
Program/Project Management Costs	***The cost to the grantee to administer, manage and oversee the project. This may include project oversight and management activities, as well as fiscal management components.*** • Identify costs in the Personnel Expenses category if provided by staff, or in the Contractor Expenses category if the services are contracted out • For personnel expenses, time sheet tracking by funding source, or equivalent, is required. If personnel do not positive time record then project management costs should be recorded as match • Note: only paid personnel and contractor expenses which are directly attributed and tracked to the project can be reimbursed; volunteer time can be tracked and submitted as match
Travel & Related Expenses	***Costs directly associated with the project and approved in advance by FFSL for travel, lodging and meals*** • These costs cannot exceed Utah State and/or federal rates. If costs will be higher, prior justification to and approval by FFSL is required before such expenses are incurred and allowed for reimbursement

FY 2023 Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Process
National Overview and Western Guidance

Submission deadline: All project proposals must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. Mountain Time on Friday November 4, 2022. Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be considered.

A maximum of five applications per state/Pacific Island may be put forth for consideration by the multi-agency grant scoring panel. Tribal entities working on land held in fee simple have the option of applying through the relevant state/island forestry agency or, alternately, through the separate national tribal process through grants.gov. Tribal entities working on trust lands should work through the grants.gov separate national tribal process. Each western State and Pacific Island Forester will receive an online application portal password from Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) staff for FY 2023. Proposals from previous years and the final submission grant portal are located at www.forestrygrants.org/westernLSR.

All associated western LSR documents can be found by visiting: https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program/fy-2023-landscape-scale-restoration

For more information, please contact:
CWSF/WFLC Competitive Grants Manager, info@westernforesters.org

NATIONAL OVERVIEW

The State and Private Forestry (S&PF) Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) 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]

This document includes a summary of major provisions of the proposed Landscape Scale Restoration Manual (FSM 3800) (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 USDA Forest Service (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

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

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. Projects must align with a State's Forest Action Plan or equivalent state-wide restoration strategy.

- 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 50,000[2]; 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.

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 in which one or more of these priority factors should be detailed 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.

[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.

- In accordance with Executive Order 13985 "Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government", projects must include a description of the benefiting community or recipient and how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people. For definitions of "equity" and "underserved communities" please see section 2 of that order.

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 the 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. A valid registration with the System Award Management (SAM) www.sam.gov is required at the time of award. 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. 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 working on land owned in fee simple may choose to work through a state/island forestry agency or through the separate tribal process. Tribal entities working on trust land are encouraged to utilize the separate national tribal process which will be facilitated through grants.gov. If a Tribe working on trust land chooses to work through a state/island forestry agency, they will need to abide by all direct granting requirements as these funds cannot be delivered through states' consolidated payment grant (CPG).

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 LSR database, referred to as LaSR. 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 the 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, federally recognized Indian 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. In accordance with a recent USDA legal decision, Tribal trust land and non-trust land are both eligible for LSR funding. A separate tribal process and guidance will be posted on grants.gov. Tribal applications may opt to work through that separate tribal process OR they may opt to work with the state/island through this western process. Proposals working on Tribal trust land are encouraged to work through that separate tribal process. Tribal trust land applications working through the state/island process must abide by all requirements for direct delivery of their grant funds from the Forest Service.

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 objectives[3] (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 the achievement of one or more of the Landscape Objectives.

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

Project Benefits and Description of Benefiting Community
Each proposal/application MUST include a description of how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people AND a description of the benefiting community or recipients.

Project benefits may be social, ecological, or economic. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Watershed restoration efforts that improve or protect drinking water supplies in communities with persistent poverty.
- Hazardous fuels or forest health treatments that reduce risk to underserved communities.
- Income opportunities (e.g., forest products or fuelwood) or employment generated by the project benefit underserved communities.

The benefiting community or recipient could include demographics, and vulnerabilities such as health, economic, environmental, and climate impacts faced by the community. Data or evidence should support the proposal. Applicants may consider utilizing the national tools and datasets listed below or provide more localized knowledge such as tribal, local, or state data, to describe the populations and conditions that the project proposes to benefit.

- **Persistent Poverty Counties:** The USDA Economic Research Service has defined counties as being persistently poor if 20 percent or more of their populations were living in poverty based on the 1980, 1990, and 2000 decennial censuses and 2007-11 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. See the ERS County Typology Codes, 2015 Edition.
- **Center for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index:** This online interactive map uses 15 U.S. census variables which can be viewed as one overall vulnerability index or viewed as 4 separate indices: socioeconomic status, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing type and transportation.
- **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Justice Screen and Mapping Tool (EJScreen):** With this online tool, under "Socioeconomic Indicators," the "Demographic Index" is based on the average of low-income and people of color (by Census block group). You can also view each of those indicators separately, as well as other demographic indicators.
- **White House Council on Environmental Quality's Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool:** This tool identifies communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. These communities are located in census tracts that are at or above the thresholds in one or more of eight categories of criteria. The tool uses census tracts that represent about 4,000 people, which is the smallest unit of geography for which consistent data can be displayed on the tool. The tool ranks each census tract using percentiles that show how much burden each tract experiences relative to all other tracts, for each criterion.

State Caps and Minimum and Maximum Funding Levels
Five (5) proposals total may be put forward for consideration within each state, which includes all eligible entities therein. 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.

- 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 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 through the state/island forestry agency within each state will be considered final and undergo review by the multi-agency LSR grants review panel.

Each western State and Pacific Island Forester will receive an online application portal password from WFLC staff for FY 2023. WFLC staff will also work with Forest Service staff to facilitate the 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.

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 through the separate tribal process. Please see grants.gov for instructions specific to that process.

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. In all of the above scenarios, the 15% cap per state would apply to selected proposals. Again, please note that trust land applicants must abide by all direct granting requirements and are encouraged to utilize the separate tribal process via grants.gov.
- 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.

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 Pacific Island 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 (cash and/or in-kind contributions) 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. Match must be derived from non-federal sources. 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.

[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.

- **Direct Landowner payments**, such as cost-share, reimbursement, and other types of payment provided directly to private landowners are not allowable costs; however, LSR funding (and match) may be used to perform work on private lands.
- **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 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 needs, high-level overview of main goals, collaboration, boundaries, jurisdictions, the 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.

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.

Quantitative Accomplishment	**Description**
Acres of hazardous fuels management	Acres treated to reduce or mitigate hazardous fuels including prescribed fire, thinning, and other actions that reduce hazardous fuels and mitigate fire risk.
Acres treated to enhance wildlife habitat	Acres of forest treated to improve 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 habitat	Miles of riparian forest treated to improve wildlife and fish habitat. Threatened and endangered species that will benefit from project activities should be included in the narrative accomplishments.
Acres of trees and seedlings planted to enhance water quality	Acres of trees and seedlings planted to improve water quality including planting to create riparian buffers, floodplain restoration, and other actions that enhance water quality/quantity.
Miles of riparian forest treated to enhance water quality	Miles of riparian forest treated to improve 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).
Number of trees, saplings, and/or seedlings planted to enhance water quality	Number of trees, saplings, and/or seedlings planted to improve water quality including riparian buffers, floodplain restoration, and storm water management actions that are non-structural. Specify size of trees planted and describe the plan for tree care to maximize survival.
Acres treated for insects and disease	Acres treated for insects and disease including through chemical, mechanical, and biological actions that improve forest health conditions.
Acres 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.
Acres under new forest stewardship or other forest management plans	Acres under a new forest management plan. A forest management plan could include a Tribal forest management plan, Forest Stewardship Plan, CAP 106 plan, Tree Farm plan, tax abatement plan, or equivalent state forest,

	watershed, or landscape plan. If a landscape plan, the plan must focus on discrete/specific geography such as a watershed and is not state-wide.
Number of forest landowners reached through technical assistance	Forest landowners reached through technical assistance in more than one interaction and known to have benefited in some significant and lasting way (e.g., developed or implemented a forest management activity or practice). 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.
Tons of pulpwood or biomass produced (economic benefit)	Tons of pulpwood or biomass produced that contribute to the forest products industry.
Board feet of logs/sawlogs produced (economic benefit)	Board feet of logs/sawlogs produced that contribute to the forest products industry.

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 strategies. 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.

Description of Benefits
A proposal must include a description of how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people. This description of benefits may include social, ecological, or economic.

A proposal must include a description of the benefiting community and/or recipients. This description could include demographic and vulnerabilities that are supported by data or evidence. Applicants should include national tools and data sets or utilize localized knowledge such as tribal, local, or state data to describe the populations and conditions that the project proposes to benefit. *When the project locations are not known at the proposal stage, describe if and how equity and serving socially vulnerable or underserved populations will be considered in selecting project locations/benefiting communities.*

Sustainability of Outcomes
Provides rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future, beyond the 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 Criteria[7]

	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 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.

[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 after scoring applications. The application rankings are averaged across the reviewers, with the highest average ordinal ranked applications receiving funding priority.

	7- 10 High	3-6 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
Context, Goals, and Objectives ***2,500 Characters***	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).	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.	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.

	14-20 pts - High	6-13 pts – Medium	0-5 pts - Low
Proposed Activities and Budget ***3,250 characters*** Priority points will be awarded to projects that leverage funding from multiple entities. 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.	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.	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.	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.

	10-15 pts - High	4-9 pts – Medium	0-3 pts - Low
Deliverables and Outcomes ***2,500 Characters*** Proposed metrics should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. See on-the-ground national quantitative measures chart for specific outcome categories and metrics. High score requires planning to accomplish at least one.	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).	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).	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.
	10-15 pts - High	**4-9 pts – Medium**	**0-3 pts - Low**
Cross-Boundary Collaboration ***3,250 Characters*** 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.	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).	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.	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).

	7-10 pts - High	3-6 pts – Medium	0-2 pts - Low
Forest Action Plan Integration ***2,250 Characters*** 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	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.	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.	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).
	7-10 pts - High	**3-6 pts – Medium**	**0-2 pts - Low**
Meaningful Scale ***2,000 Characters***	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.	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 is meaningful is limited or explanation lacks clarity.	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.

	4-5 pts – High	3 pts – Medium	0-2 pts – Low
Description of Benefits ***2,500 Characters*** Must include descriptions of ● Benefitting community and or recipients ● How the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people	Provides complete, clear, and concise descriptions of the project benefiting communities and how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people. Data and/or evidence are used to support descriptions. Projects showing direct benefit(s) and/or intentional engagement of historically underserved communities will be given full points in this category.	Provides a description of the project benefiting communities and how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people, but the benefit(s) or engagement are not direct or intentional. Data and/or evidence are provided but do not fully support the descriptions.	Lacks proper description of the project benefiting communities and how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people and is missing data and/or evidence to support description.
	7-10 pts - High	**3-6 pts – Medium**	**0-2 pts - Low**
Sustainability of Outcomes ***2,000 Characters*** 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. 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.	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). 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.	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.	Rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future beyond project end date is severely lacking. No technical transfer described.

Utah FY 2023 Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Program Worksheet	Filename			
	State:		Keyword:	
	Administration Information			
	Funds Requested:			
	Match:			
	Score:	**Ranking:**	**Project Funding:**	

1	Proposal Cooperator					
	Cooperator Organization:					
	Contact Person:					
	Address:					
	City:		**State:**		**Zip Code:**	
	Phone:		**Email:**			

1	Lead Applicant Information					
	Applicant:	Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands				
	Contact Person:	William H. Zanotti				
	Address:	1165 Highway 191, Suite 6				
	City:	Moab	**State:**	UT	**Zip Code:**	84532
	Phone:	435-260-9809	**Email:**	billzanotti@utah.gov		

2	Project Information			
	Is this a Multi-state proposal? Check "yes" if want to submit the same proposal with multiple state budget requests. If yes, a co-applicant menu item will appear in the on-line version for you to add other states. This allows you to work on the same proposal with each applicant requesting funds. :			☐ **Yes OR** ☐ **No**
	Descriptive Title of Project:			
	Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	You will refer to their associated number in the budget and/or narratives when describing their contribution or role. (Add more if needed.) 1. 2. 3. 4. 5.		
	Project Duration:	☐ **One Year**	☐ **Two Years**	☐ **Three Years**

Cooperator: an eligible entity that is submitting a proposal to a Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands for consideration as one of the five LSR applications allowed per state/island to the LSR grant process.
Applicant: The State of Utah – Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands

2	GIS Coordinates	
	Ref. Point Name:	
	Lat/Long:	
	Description:	
	Ref. Point Name:	
	Lat/Long:	
	Description:	
	Area Name:	
	Boundary Lat/Longs:	
	Description:	
	Area Name:	
	Boundary Lat/Longs:	
	Description:	

3	Project Overview/Purpose Statement
	5 Points. 1500 Characters including spaces. The project overview should contain the location and importance of the landscape; landscape need; high level overview of main goals 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
4	**10 Points. 2500 Characters including spaces.** 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 in the 'Eligibility, Process, and Other Requirements' section and the National LSR Manual. Link the project goals to the relevant Landscape Objective(s).

	Proposed Activities
5	**20 Points. 3250 Characters including spaces.** 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.

6	Project Budget						
			Leverage[1]				
		Grant	Match		Non-Match	Source	TOTAL
		Funds requested	Applicant	Non-federal contributors	Applicant, non-federal, and/or federal	3rd Party Contributor/s	Total project cost
	Personnel / Labor:						
	Fringe Benefits:						
	Travel:						
	Equipment:						
	Supplies:						
	Contractual:						
	Construction:						
	Consolidated[2]:						
	Other:						
	Indirect Costs[3]:						
	TOTAL:						

[1] Leverage includes all three categories: match, non-match, and source. Funds qualifying as "match" must meet the same program requirements as grant funds (e.g., program authorities, non-federal sources). 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). Partnership with other USFS programs outside of State & Private Forestry, as well as other federal and state programs is encouraged.

[2] If any part of your match requirement is being covered through a consolidated payment grant (i.e. state spending of non-federal funds on activities that meet S&PF program authorities but are not tied to this proposal), please place it here.

[3] Indirect costs must be tied to an established rate. Waived indirect costs are an acceptable source of match.

	Deliverables and Outcomes
7	**15 Points. 2500 Characters including spaces.** 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 in the 'LSR Quantitative Accomplishments Requirement' document 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.

	Cross-Boundary Collaboration
8	**15 Points. 3250 Characters including spaces.** 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.

	Forest Action Plan Integration
9	**10 Points. 2250 Characters including spaces.** 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.

	Meaningful Scale
10	**10 Points. 2000 Characters including spaces.** 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.

	Description of Benefits
11	**5 Points. 2,500 Characters including spaces.** A proposal must include a clear description of how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people. This description of benefits may include social, ecological, or economic. A proposal must include a description of the benefiting community and/or recipients. This description could include demographic and vulnerabilities that are supported by data or evidence. Applicants should include national tools and data sets or utilize localized knowledge such as tribal, local, or state data to describe the populations and conditions that the project proposes to benefit. See Western Guidance for more information on suggested tools. Projects showing direct benefit(s) and/or intentional engagement of historically underserved communities will be given full points in this category.

	Sustainability of Outcomes
12	**10 Points. 2000 Characters including spaces.** 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.