



**WESTERN FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP COALITION**

FY2025 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 2025 Western Guidance
- Eligibility
- Submission Process
- Authorized Activities
- Budget
- Application
- Scoring/Tips
- Resources
- Q&A



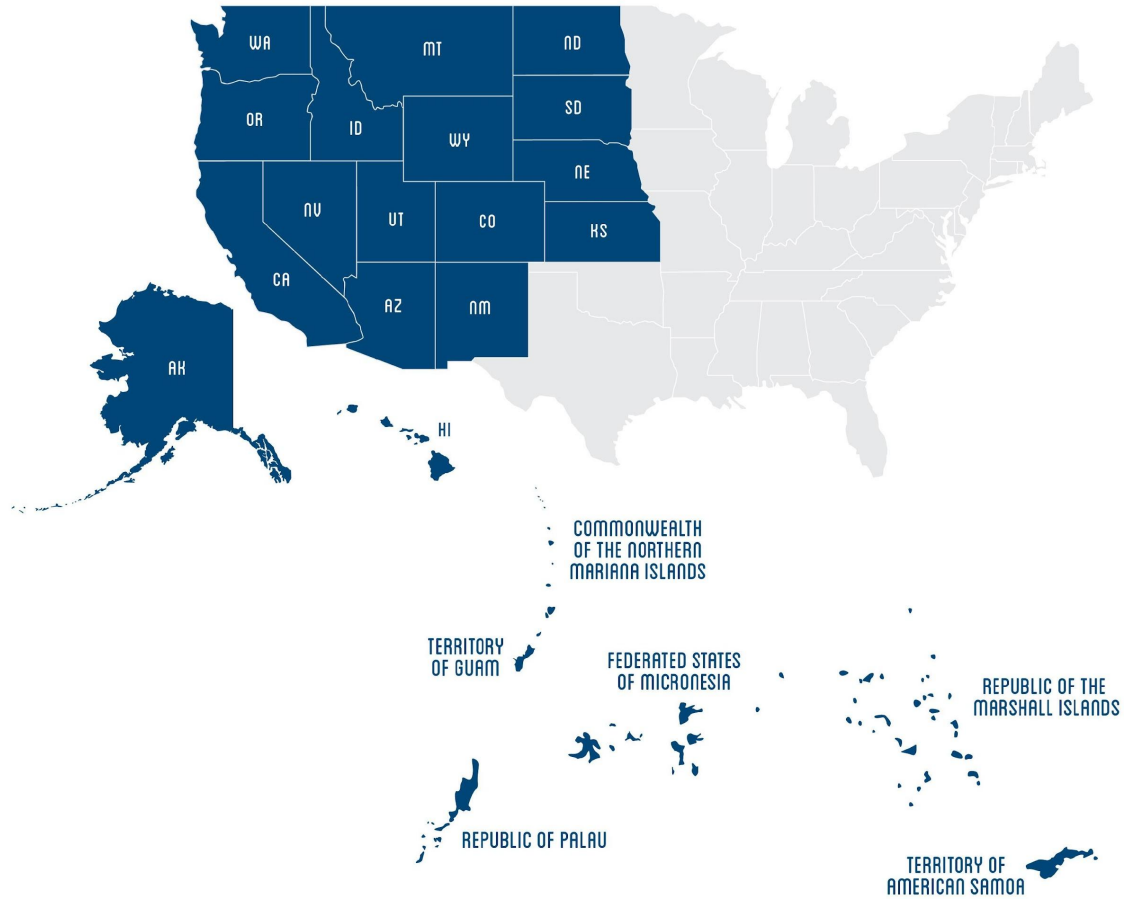


What is LSR

- Competitive grant program that promotes collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and furthers priorities identified in state Forest Action Plans
- Originally 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
- Submit final applications into the grant portal (5 per state)
 - Cooperator Submission System (CSS) option available
- <https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program>



Federal Role (Regional Level)

- **Pre-award: Assist with project development**
 - Assist with outreach efforts
 - Answer questions regarding program authorities
 - Review application drafts
 - Work with Tribes applying through the separate Tribal RFP
- **Post-award: Project oversight**
 - Review progress in regards to deliverables, timing, funding
 - Ensure compliance with federal regulations and program authorities
 - Review/approve annual reports and project modifications



FY 2025 Western Guidance

- [National LSR Manual \(FSM 3800\)](#) linked here
- [FY25 Western Guidance](#) linked here
- Reminder there is a separate national Tribal process available
 - <https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/355888>



Eligible Entities

- State and territorial forestry agencies (or an equivalent state agency);
- Units of local government;
- Federally recognized 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
- Tribal trust land is eligible




Rural Requirement

- Projects must achieve on-the-ground outcomes on rural forest land
- LSR Project Planning Tool
 - Project Eligibility Tab
 - <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/7e0ca1a95e134de094c71cb3646372d3?item=1>

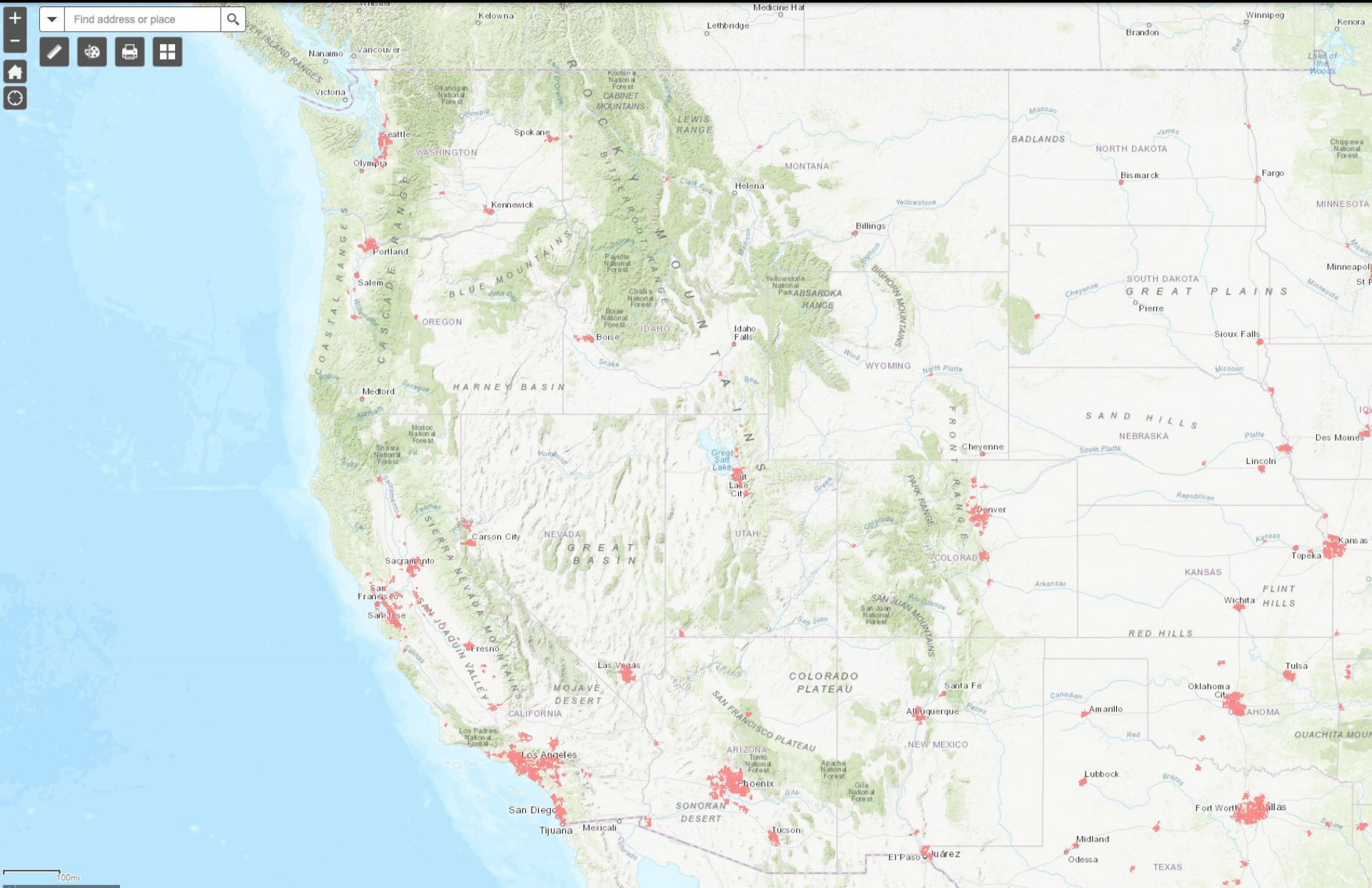
Landscape Scale Restoration Project Planning Tool

Project Eligibility Project Planning

USDA  Landscape Scale Restoration Project Eligibility

US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration

Map navigation controls including zoom in (+), zoom out (-), home, and refresh icons. A search bar with the text "Find address or place" and a magnifying glass icon is also present.





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 the new separate tribal process on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov)



Forestrygrants.org Submission

- Depending on the state, you may be asked to use the fillable worksheet on the WFLC website for your application or some other direct process working with the state contact to eventually input into the grant portal or you may be provided a unique CSS link to fill it out in the online system
- If provided a CSS link, only share this link with those you wish to be able to work on the proposal as anyone with this link can edit the proposal
- It is recommended that you use the worksheet to copy things over into the system after everything is organized and ready



CSS Submission

- You should update each section as you are filling it out to ensure all progress is being saved
 - You can return to your proposal by using the unique link provided
- All fields must be filled out before submitting your proposal
- If it still says incomplete and not ready to submit make sure you have filled out the keyword section
- You should save and/or print the proposal **before** submitting it



Tribal Process

- Tribes can work with states through this western WFLC process
- Alternatively, there is a separate national tribal process for:
 - Federally recognized Tribes
 - Alaska Native Corporations/Villages
 - Tribal organizations as defined in 25 USC 5304 (I) (requires a letter of support from a Federally Recognized Tribe or Alaska Native Corporation/Village)
- More information:
<https://grants.gov/search-results-detail/355888>
- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/landscape-scale-restoration>



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



Requirement Affirmation

- “Submitting affirms proposal abides by all eligibility/authority/requirements within in FY25 National and Western Guidance.”
- What does this mean?
 - Eligibility
 - Direct granting financial requirements
 - Rural
 - Pre-approvals were acquired when necessary



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)
- Purchase of fire department equipment
- Purchase of land
- Research (new theory, hypothesis, model)
- Cost-share, reimbursement, or any payments directly to private landowners
- 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)



Non-Match 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 in the larger competition with the 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

an 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

- Acres of hazardous fuels management
- Acres treated to enhance wildlife habitat
- Miles of riparian forest treated to enhance wildlife habitat
- Acres of trees and seedlings planted to enhance water quality
- Miles of riparian forest treated to enhance water quality
- Number of trees, saplings, and/or seedlings planted to enhance water quality
- Acres treated for insects and disease
- Acres invasive plant/weed Management
- Acres under new forest stewardship or other forest management plans
- Number of forest landowners reached through technical assistance
- Tons of pulpwood or biomass produced (economic benefit)
- Board feet of logs/sawlogs produced (economic benefit)



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
- Projects showing direct benefit(s) and/or intentional engagement of historically disadvantaged communities will also be given priority
- Leverage funding from multiple entities.



Description of Benefits

- A proposal must include a description of how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people
 - May include social, ecological, or economic
- A proposal must include a description of the benefiting community and/or recipients
 - May include demographic and vulnerabilities that are supported by data or evidence
- Applicants may consider utilizing the national tools and datasets listed or provide more localized knowledge such as tribal, local, or state data to describe the populations and conditions that the project proposes to benefit



Evaluation Criteria

	4-5 pts - High	3 pts - Medium	0-2 pts - Low
<p><i>Project Overview/Purpose Statement</i> <i>1,500 Characters</i> Description includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.	<p>Provides a succinct and relevant project overview/purpose statement; clearly communicates the value of the project. Description covers all elements listed in project overview instructions.</p>	<p>Summarizes the project but the value of the project is not clearly communicated. Includes some of the description elements required for a high score, but lacks others.</p>	<p>Does not effectively summarize the proposed project. Does not include many of the description elements required for a high score.</p>



Strong Proposal Suggestions

- Follow rubric and instructions to the letter for each section
- Clear intent and content
- Readable organization and formatting
 - Bulleting
 - Specify acronyms and abbreviations before using it throughout the rest of your application
- 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 **November 15** at 5 p.m. MDT
- LSR Grants Review Team
 - Virtual training in November
- Scoring Opens: November
- Scoring Closes: January
- Approval: February
- WFLC sends project rankings to Washington Office
- Funding adjustments



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>
 - National LSR Manual
 - FY 2025 Western Guidance
 - Online Instructions
 - GIS Instructions
 - FY 2025 Application Worksheet
 - FY 2025 FAQ- **Will be updated post webinar**
 - Multi-state instructions
 - Quantitative Accomplishments
 - Webinar slides and recording- **Forthcoming post webinar**



WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION

Questions?

Please see FAQ available at:

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

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