USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

STATE, PRIVATE, & TRIBAL FORESTRY

FY26 Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program: Tribes and Tribal Lands

October 2026

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

The Forest Service is a Federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture that manages 193 million acres of land. We manage public lands in the form of national forests and grasslands, provide technical and financial assistance to over 140 million acres of State and private lands, and tribal forestry agencies, and make up the largest forestry research organization in the world. We help people share and enjoy the forest, while conserving the environment for generations to come.

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of all the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The Forest Service motto, "Caring for the Land and Serving People," captures the spirit of our mission, which we accomplish through these main activities:

- Protection and management of natural resources on lands we manage
- Research on all aspects of forestry, rangeland management, and forest resource utilization
- Community assistance and cooperation with State and local governments, forest industries, and private landowners to help protect and manage non-Federal forest and associated range and watershed lands to improve conditions in rural areas
- International assistance to formulate policy and coordinate U.S. support for the protection and sound management of the world's forest resources

Executive Summary

The purpose of the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Program is to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. This competitive grant program supports collaborative high impact projects that lead to measurable outcomes on priority forest landscapes, leverage public and private resources, and further priorities identified in a science-based restoration strategy. Proposals should reduce wildfire risk, improve fish and wildlife habitats, maintain or improve water quality and watershed function, and/or mitigate invasive plants, insects, and disease.

Tribal forest lands provide valuable social, ecological, and economic benefits to Tribes and Tribal communities. They provide clean air and water, habitats for fish and wildlife, forest products, and cultural resources. At the same time, all forests face many threats, including wildland fire, invasive species, pests, and diseases, and more which may spread across ownerships and jurisdictional boundaries. By working across landownerships at the landscape scale, including Tribal forest lands, the Landscape Scale Restoration program aims to address the challenges facing forests.

- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Landscape Scale Restoration FY2026 Funding Opportunity for Tribes
- **Announcement Type:** Annual Grant Announcement
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** **USDA-FS-2026-LSR-TRIBAL**
- **Assistance Listing Number(s):** 10.742—Landscape-Scale Restoration
- **Funding**:

- **Estimated Total Program Funding:** Up to $12.6 million in funding has been appropriated for the Landscape Scale Restoration Program. Up to $1,260,000 in funding will be available for the LSR tribal funding opportunity.
- **Expected Number of Awards:** 3-5 awards estimated, to be determined by individual award funding requests.
- **Individual Award Funding:**
  - **Minimum:** $100,000 per project
  - **Maximum:** Up to $300,000
  - **Note:** The Forest Service reserves the right to award an applicant less than the funding requested based on funding availability and project eligibility.

- **Key Dates:**
  - **Application Due Date:** 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday, January 26, 2027
  - **Anticipated Award Date:** Spring 2027
  - **Expected Time to Process Application and Notify Applicant:** 2-4 months after deadline.
- **Agency Contact Information:** Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact and work directly with the appropriate Forest Service staff during the application process before submission:
  - Washington Office: General questions about the program and funding opportunity may be directed to the national email inbox: sm.fs.lsr@usda.gov
  - CT, DE, IA, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI, WV: Sherri Wormstead, sherri.j.wormstead@usda.gov
  - ID, NV, UT, MT, ND: Patrick Bridegam, patrick.a.bridegam@usda.gov
  - CO, KS, NE, SD, WY: Laura Wagner, laura.wagner@usda.gov
  - AZ, NM: Kathleen Moore, kathleen.moore@usda.gov
  - CA, HI: Jeremy Gooding, jeremy.gooding@usda.gov
  - OR, WA, AK: Karl Dalla Rosa, karl.dallarosa@usda.gov
  - AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA: Emily Rhoades, emily.rhoades@usda.gov

II. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

Eligible Applicants

- **Entity Types:**
  - Federally Recognized Tribes

- Alaska Native Corporations and Villages
- Tribal organizations as defined in 25 USC 5304 (l)[1]: Eligible to apply at the request of a Federally Recognized Tribe (requires a letter of support from the relevant Tribe).

- **Disqualifying Criteria:** Applicants that do not meet the eligibility definition will be deemed ineligible and removed from competition without further consideration.
- **Funding Restrictions Affecting Eligibility:** Cost-share of 1:1 non-Federal funds is required.
- **Factors Disqualifying an Application:**
  - Projects that do not meet eligibility, including anywhere the on-the-ground activities take place on urban land (Census places with greater than 50,000 people) or on Federal land.
  - Projects that include unallowable costs per the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act authorities (see Unallowable Costs in Section III).
- **Limit on Allowable Application Submissions:** There are no limits on the number of applications an applicant may submit to this opportunity.

Cost Sharing

- **Required Cost Sharing:** Cost sharing is required for all proposals.
- **Cost Sharing Calculations:** Grant recipients must match (cost share) the Federal grant funds 1:1 from non-Federal sources. For example, if the requested Federal amount is $100,000, the non-Federal match must be at least $100,000. Note: BIA (but not Forest Service) 638 funds may be used as match under this program.
- **Cost Sharing Restrictions:** Match must be met using eligible and allowable costs and is subject to match requirements in Federal regulations. Allowable expenses are those that are directly allocable to specific implementation of the proposed project and agreement. A non-Federal entity's in-kind match must meet the following criteria:
  - Verifiable from the non-Federal entity's records
  - Not included as contributions for any other Federal award
  - Necessary and reasonable for accomplishment of project or program objectives
  - Allowable under subpart E of 2 CFR part 200
- **Non-Match Leveraged Funding:** Additional funds beyond the matching requirement can be shown as non-match leverage. Non-match leverage may include contributions such as construction,

[1] Tribal organization means the recognized governing body of any Indian tribe; any legally established organization of Indians which is controlled, sanctioned, or chartered by such governing body or which is democratically elected by the adult members of the Indian community to be served by such organization and which includes the maximum participation of Indians in all phases of its activities: Provided, that in any case where a contract is let or grant made to an organization to perform services benefiting more than one Indian tribe, the approval of each such Indian tribe shall be a prerequisite to the letting or making of such contract or grant.

research, or other activities that are not allowable under the LSR authority and/or may be funded by a source that does not meet the Federal match requirement but nevertheless contributes to the project objectives.

III. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

- **Funding Purpose:** The intent of LSR funds is to support collaborative, high impact projects that lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape, leverage public and private resources, and further priorities identified in a science-based restoration strategy. This program supports priorities including protecting communities and natural resources from wildfire, increasing timber production, and expanding rural economies (Executive Orders 14223, 14225, and 14308; Secretarial Memos 1078-006 and 1078-011 and the USDA Forest Service Active Forest Management Strategy).
- **Eligible Lands:** LSR projects must be conducted on rural non-industrial private forest land and/or rural State or local government forest land.
    - **Nonindustrial private forest land is land that is:**
        - Rural (as defined in this section);
        - Has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees; and
        - Owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian tribe, or other private legal entity.
    - **Tribal lands:** Indian trust lands are considered eligible lands, as these lands are included within the definition of "non-industrial private forest land." Indian trust lands held both by Indian Tribes and by individual Indians are eligible for participation in the LSR program. Indian forest land held "in fee" is also eligible.
    - **Definition of rural**: For the purposes of this program, "rural" is defined as all areas outside Census places greater than 50,000 people according to the latest United States Census. Please use the LSR Project Planning Tool (Project Eligibility) to confirm if your proposed project location is eligible within this definition. Projects which do not take place within this geographic area of eligibility will not be considered.
- **Funding Priorities:** In accordance with Section 13A of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 [16 U.S.C. 2109a], priority will be given to proposals that:
    - Further science-based restoration, which may include a Tribal forest management plan.
    - Promote cross-boundary collaboration by their proximity to other land ownerships or inclusion of a combination of landownership including Tribal, State, local government, and/or private lands.
    - Coordinate with or are in proximity to other complementary landscape scale efforts, e.g., Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, landscapes designated for insect and disease treatments, Good Neighbor Agreements, and Stewardship Agreements.

- Coordinate with other relevant programs such as Tribal programs.
- Leverage funding from multiple entities.

- **Program Goals and Objectives:** The LSR program supports collaborative, high impact projects that lead to measurable outcomes on the landscape and:
  - Further a science-based restoration strategy such as a Tribal Forest Plan, State Forest Action Plan, or other equivalent restoration strategy.
  - Achieve one or more of the following objectives:
    - 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
- **Award Goals and Objectives:** LSR projects work across land ownerships—with States, units of local government, Tribes, and non-industrial private forest landowners— to deliver on-the-ground outcomes including wildfire risk reduction, watershed protection and restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and mitigation for invasive species, insect infestations and disease.
- **Expected Achievements:** Each LSR project must directly demonstrate measurable accomplishments for at least one of the on-the-ground quantitative measures listed below and may include additional specific measurable results that show how the Federal investment will lead to outcomes on the landscape. Accomplishments must be achieved within the timeframe of the grant. The measures/metrics should be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. Measurable Outcomes must include:
  - **Economic Benefit/Board Feet:** Board feet of logs/sawlogs produced that contribute to the forest products industry.
  - **Economic Benefit/Tons:** Tons of pulpwood or biomass produced that contribute to the forest products industry.
  - **Hazardous Fuels Management**: Acres treated to mitigate hazardous fuels including prescribed fire, thinning, and other actions that reduce hazardous fuels and mitigate fire risk.
  - **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 for invasive plants.
  - **Insect and Disease Management:** Acres treated for insects and disease including through chemical, mechanical, and biological actions that improve forest health conditions.

- **Landowner Assistance**: Forest landowners reached through technical assistance and are known to have benefited in some significant and lasting way (e.g., developed or implemented a forest management activity or practice) from the LSR project through more than one interaction. This does not include landowners 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.
- **Stewardship/Forest Management Planning:** 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 management plan, watershed, or a landscape plan. If a landscape plan, the plan must focus on discrete/specific geography such as a watershed and not a statewide landscape level plan.
- **Water Quality Enhancement/Acres:** 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.
- **Water Quality Enhancement/Number of Trees, Saplings, Seedlings**: Number of trees, saplings, and/or seedlings planted to improve water quality including riparian buffers, floodplain restoration, and stormwater management actions that are non-structural. In the measurable outcomes narrative section, specify size of trees planted and describe the plan for tree care to maximize survival.
- **Water Quality Enhancement/Riparian Forests:** 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.
- **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement/Acres:** 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.
- **Wildlife Habitat Enhancement/Miles:** 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.

- **Unallowable Costs:**
  - **Construction or improvements of building (facilities), and land improvements** including but not limited to buildings, roads, culverts, dams, ponds, and major earthwork projects.
  - **Land acquisition projects, including conservation easements** or the use of partner purchase of land as match.
  - **Cost-share, reimbursement, and other types of payments provided directly to private landowners.** However, LSR funding (and match) may be used to perform work on private lands; for example, a Tribe or Tribal organization could pay for consulting services or

treatment activities to be performed on private lands with permission of the landowner.

- **Basic research,** which 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."
- **Fencing** that is part of a farm or agricultural operation. A fence is an allowable expense if it is part of silvicultural practices, e.g., fencing necessary to exclude ungulates to prevent damage to seedlings.
- **Small business start-up funding.**

Note: 1:1 cost share must meet the same requirements as the Federal funding, so cannot be used for any of these unallowable costs. However, non-match leveraged funding (which is in addition to the 1:1 cost share) can be used for these costs and activities.

- **Beneficiaries or Program Participants Eligibility:** There are no specific eligibility criteria for beneficiaries or program participants other than Federal award recipients.
- **Program Citations:** The grants awarded under this announcement support Section 13A of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 [16 U.S.C. 2109a].

OTHER INFORMATION

- **Program History:** The Landscape Scale Restoration Program is a grant program that was codified in the 2018 Farm Bill, which amended the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. Throughout the United States and its territories, the program is an important tool for restoring resilience to the nation's forest.
- **Examples of Previously Successful Projects:** Funded projects can be found on the LSR Funded Projects web page.
  - Harvesting and processing of timber and timber products generated by forest restoration activities including forest health and hazardous fuels reduction.
  - Thinning and reintroduction of cultural fire to reduce uncharacteristic wildfires, support wildlife habitat, and protect cultural resources.
  - Restoration of forests following damaging events such as wildfire or hurricanes including tree planting to improve water quality and post-disaster planning and recovery.
  - Water quality and watershed health improvements, including efforts to improve forest health and resilience, reduce wildfire risk, and restore riparian forests.
  - Protecting, maintaining, enhancing, and preserving habitat for wildlife and fish species, including threatened and endangered species.
  - Forest management or restoration demonstration areas that both achieve on-the-ground accomplishments for a specific area and provide sites for education and technology transfer.
  - Community tree planting and tree canopy management in rural communities with a

population of 50,000 or less.

- Survey, prioritization, and treatment to control invasive plants in a high-priority landscape.
- Reforestation with trees and seedlings that are suitable for timber and food production, and other benefits associated with growing trees.
- Development and implementation of multi-resource management plans with private forest landowners.
- Development and implementation of agroforestry practices that provide nutritional, environmental, educational, and other benefits. Agroforestry practices must target non-industrial private forest land and support forest restoration.

- **Additional Details for Equipment:**
  - Equipment purchases require prior approval by the Forest Service unit that will issue the grant award. Equipment is defined at 2 CFR 200.1 as tangible personal property (including information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by the recipient or subrecipient for financial statement purposes, or $10,000.
  - Purchase of equipment with Federal funds creates a Federal interest in the equipment until the fair market value of the equipment falls below $10,000. If the project is funded, the grantee will be required to complete additional paperwork before and after receiving Forest Service funds for the equipment purchase.
  - Applicants should analyze the cost benefits of purchasing versus leasing equipment, especially for high-cost items and those subject to rapid technical advances.
  - Equipment approvals will be granted only 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.

IV. APPLICATION CONTENTS AND FORMAT

- **Required Contents:** To be considered for funding under this opportunity, an application must contain:
  - **Project Narrative** (5-page limit). See narrative formatting requirements below.
  - **Detailed Budget Table or Spreadsheet** in whole numbers, with Federal funding and match amounts in each relevant budget category. An example budget table is provided in Appendix A.
- **Additional Requirements Dependent Upon Project Activities/Costs:**
  - **For projects using Federal funds to purchase equipment:** Fill out, sign, and submit FS 1500-34 Grant Equipment Justification and Certification Statement.

- **For projects that may involve procurement of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS):** In accordance with OMB Memorandum M-26-02, applicants must describe in their application their risk-based approach to applying the UAS security requirements detailed in Appendix B (attached at the end of this document) into any procurement solicitations to potential vendors.

- **Project Narrative** Clearly and concisely respond to each section. The project narrative should be formatted to 8.5 x 11-inch page size with .5-inch margins and a clearly legible font no smaller than 11 points. The project narrative should not exceed five pages (excluding budget) and should include the components listed below.

1. **Project Title:** Provide a descriptive title for the project. Use this full title consistently on all documents.
2. **Project Applicant:** Name of the Tribal Government, Tribal Organization, or Alaska Native Corporation or Village applying for Federal funding.
3. **Project Contact:** The name, role or job title, phone number, and email for the project, i.e., who would be the lead for implementing the project if funded.
4. **Project Duration:** Indicate the number of years estimated to complete the project (one, two, or three).
5. **Brief Project Overview and Purpose:** (*Up to 1,000 characters including spaces)* Provide a brief purpose statement for the project that includes a high-level overview of main goals, collaboration, boundaries, jurisdictions, amount of funds requested and total project value, and the relationship to a restoration strategy.
6. **Project Location:** Brief list of the Tribal land, town(s), county(ies), and landownership type for the on-the-ground outcomes. Eligible rural forest land includes Tribal trust lands and Tribal forest land held in fee; and State, county, or local rural forest land. Note: LSR Federal funds may not be used for activities on Federally-owned land.
7. **Project Description:** Provide a comprehensive but succinct description (*Up to 5,500 characters including spaces)* that includes the following:
    a. Project goals, strategies, objectives;
    b. The project natural resource values of importance (e.g., clean air and water, fish and wildlife habitat, forest products, and cultural resources) and the threats to those values.
    c. The project area, land ownerships, and specific areas targeted (or how the specific areas will be identified as part of project implementation) and address the project's suitability as the most appropriate scale of response to the issue being addressed. Projects should effectively address the purpose statement: "To encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes."
    d. The on-the ground activities to be completed with grant funds, match, and leveraged resources within three years of award or less; including how and when each activity

will be accomplished. Link specific project activities to funding amounts in the Project Budget and to stated project goals and objectives.

8. **Priorities Identified in Science-Based Restoration Strategy:** *(Up to 2,000 characters including spaces) Describe* how the project supports one or more priority landscape, goal, or strategy identified in a science-based restoration strategy, such as a Tribal Forest Plan, State Forest Action Plan, or other equivalent restoration strategy. This may include a description of how Traditional Ecological Knowledge is integrated.
9. **Measurable Outcomes:** *(Up to 3,000 characters including spaces)* 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. Indicate accomplishment of at least one measurable outcome (See Program Description Expected Achievements for list of measurable outcomes). Proposed metrics must be specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely. Refer to the list of LSR measurable outcomes.
10. **Cross-Boundary Collaboration:** *(Up to 2,000 characters including spaces)* Describe cross-boundary goals and how the project advances or contributes to complementary and/or adjacent landscape restoration initiatives, strategies, or plans on Federal, other Tribal, State, and/or private lands. Examples of complementary landscape policies, initiatives, and mechanisms include Tribal Forest Protection Act, Good Neighbor Authority, Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, and Stewardship Contracting.
11. **Sustainability of Outcomes:** *(Up to 2,000 characters including spaces)* Describe how the project activities and outcomes will sustain project outcomes into the future, beyond the project end date (e.g., enhanced skills or learning, replicability, etc.). Include any funding, outreach, training, technical assistance, or related opportunities that result in skills and capabilities that extend beyond the life of the project.

- **Detailed budget:** Include a detailed budget for Federal funds, non-Federal match, and non-match leverage. See Appendix A for a sample budget table. Budget categories include the following:
  - **Personnel:** This line item includes direct compensation to individuals for time worked. The salaries of administrative and clerical staff should normally be treated as indirect costs.
  - **Fringe Benefits:** Based on actual known costs or an established formula. Fringe benefits are for the personnel listed in Personnel budget category and only for the percentage of time devoted to the project.
  - **Travel:** Travel for applicant's employees only. Provide a description of the travel expenses and purpose of travel relevant to the project.
  - **Supplies:** As defined at 2 CFR 200.1. This category *does not* include equipment, the purchase of which requires prior approval from the Forest Service.
  - **Equipment**: As defined at 2 CFR 200.1. Itemize equipment and cost per unit. Include items

under $10,000 in the "Supplies" category. Equipment purchased with Federal funds must be approved by the relevant Forest Service region. List rented or leased equipment costs in the "Contractual" category.

- **Contractual:*** Describe the product or services to be paid by consultant, contract, or as a lease/rental.
- **Other:*** If there will be subawards, place that in this "Other" category.
- **Indirect Costs:** Applicants may request reimbursement for indirect costs using their established Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) if applicable or the de minimis rate of 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) per 2 CFR 200.414(f).
  - MTDC are calculated as defined in 2 CFR 200.1.
  - Only entities with an established NICRA are eligible to use waived unrecovered Federal indirect costs as match.

*Note: Subawards and contracts require prior approval by FS prior to issuance.

V. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

- **Application Materials:** Application materials and a copy of this Notice of Funding Opportunity can be accessed at www.grants.gov and the LSR webpage. Select the "Search Grants" tab and enter the Funding Opportunity number or Assistance Listing number below and then select the search button.
  - Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-FS-2026-LSR-TRIBAL
  - Assistance Listing: 10.742—Landscape-Scale Restoration
- **Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov)**
  - Each applicant Must:
    - Register in SAM.gov before applying.
    - Provide a valid Unique Entity Identifier (EIN) from SAM.gov in its application.
    - Continue to maintain an active registration in SAM.gov with current information at all times during which it has an active Federal award or an application or plan under consideration by a Federal agency.
- **Submission Instructions**
  - **Actions Prior to Applying:** If interested in an optional pre-review of your proposal narrative and budget, please submit a draft to the relevant Forest Service regional contact by **Friday, December 11, 2026.** Not submitting for an optional pre-review has no bearing on the consideration or success of an application.
  - **Application Submission Methods: Final applications must be emailed to SM.FS.LSR@usda.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern, Tuesday January 26, 2027** with a copy

provided to the appropriate Forest Service contact listed under Agency Contact Information in Section I.

- **Submission Alternatives: SM.FS.LSR@usda.gov**

- **Submission Dates and Times: Final applications must be emailed to SM.FS.LSR@usda.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern, Tuesday January 26, 2027**. with a copy provided to the appropriate Forest Service contact listed under Agency Contact Information.
- **Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs:** This funding opportunity is not subject to Executive Order 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs."

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW

Responsiveness Review

- **Responsiveness Review Process:**
  - All submissions will be screened for completion, adherence to application requirements, alignment with program goals, and compliance with USDA Forest Service policies before advancing in the review process. Incomplete submissions will disqualify an application from consideration. Late proposals and proposals that are faxed or mailed will not be accepted.
  - Submitted projects must meet the following requirements:
    - Proposal is submitted by an eligible applicant.
    - Project takes place on eligible land.
    - Project furthers priorities in a State Forest Action Plan, or equivalent Restoration Strategy (e.g. Tribal forest management plan).
    - Project will achieve on-the-ground outcomes as defined by the national quantitative accomplishment measures.
    - Proposed activities are eligible per LSR authorities (Section 13A of the CFAA).

Review Criteria

- The applicant's full application will be evaluated and assigned scores out of a maximum of 100 points based on the extent to which they meet the criteria described below.
  - **Project Overview/Purpose Statement (5 points)** The proposal includes a succinct and relevant overview that easily communicates critical elements and value of the project, including direct ties to the program's purpose statement "to encourage collaborative, science-based restoration of priority landscapes."
  - **Goals and Objectives (20 points):** Context clearly identifies priority landscapes and issues that are the focus of the project. The narrative clearly explains goals and how they relate to a restoration strategy. The need for treatment of the landscape is explained, and the goals of the project are clearly addressed and linked to the needs. Project is designed to achieve one or

more of the Landscape Objective(s):

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire
- 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

- **Activities and Budget (20 Points):** Clearly describes with specificity the activities to be completed with LSR grant funds, match, and non-match leveraged resources. All project expenditures are explicitly identified and linked to the activity. Projects that leverage match and non-match funding from multiple entities will be given priority.
- **Deliverables and Outcomes (25 Points):** The deliverables (specific target/result) and outcomes (impact of completing the project) clearly relate to the achievement of one or more Landscape Objectives and a goal, strategy, or desired future condition within the restoration strategy. Planned deliverables and outcomes, how they relate to measurable science-based restoration of landscapes, and what metrics the applicant will use to measure progress towards these outcomes are clearly described.

  Each LSR project must accomplish at least one of the on-the-ground national quantitative measures (see Section III Program Description Expected Achievements Measurable Outcomes) 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 the national quantitative measures.

- **Restoration Strategy Integration (10 points):** Clearly demonstrates how the objectives of the project will help further the priorities in a science-based restoration strategy (e.g., Tribal forest management plan). Describes the need for the proposed project and relates it to one or more significant priority landscapes, issues, or strategies identified the restoration strategy.
- **Cross-boundary Collaboration (10 points):** Describes how the project promotes cross-boundary collaboration and complementary landscape restoration initiatives, strategies, and plans and/or contribution to restoration efforts on adjacent or adjoining ownerships. Cross boundary collaboration can be achieved either through proximity to or the inclusion of multiple landownerships and/or its coordination with or proximity to other complementary landscape-scale initiatives.
- **Sustainability of Outcomes and Technical Transfer (10 points):** Provides rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future including the extent to

which the project positions the applicant to achieve longer-term restoration goals and/or results in skills and capabilities that extend beyond the life of the project.

Application Reviewers: The Forest Service administers a standalone Tribal competitive review and selection process. To ensure the application review process is transparent and fair, the Forest Service will establish a national review panel consisting of individuals who have familiarity with program requirements. Representatives are primarily national and regional LSR program managers and Tribal liaisons. Applications will be reviewed and evaluated by the national review panel based on the criteria identified in Review Criteria above.

Review and Selection Process

- Applications will undergo a preliminary review to ensure eligibility and verify requirements.
- The national review panel will review, scope, and rank applications using the Review Criteria stated above and develop a recommended ranked project list.
- The ranked project list will be submitted to the appropriate Forest Service Senior executive for approval. Consistent with 2 CFR 415.1(c), the Forest Service will consider the national review panel's recommendations when making their decision on grant awards.

Risk Review

- **Risk Review Factors:** In accordance with 2 CFR 200.206, before any funding is awarded, the Forest Service will conduct a risk assessment considering the applicant's financial stability, history of performance, audit reports and findings, and ability to implement the project and meet award requirements. Note: Before any grant is awarded, the applicant will submit a Financial Capability Questionnaire/Checklist FS-1500-22A/B.
- **(If applicable) When Award Exceeds Simplified Acquisition Threshold:**
    - Prior to awarding a total amount of Federal share greater than the simplified acquisition threshold, the Federal agency must review and consider any applicant information in the responsibility/qualification records available in SAM.gov (see 41 U.S.C. 2313).
    - An applicant can review and comment on any information in the responsibility/qualification records available in *SAM.gov*.
    - Before making decisions in the risk review, the Federal agency will consider any applicant comments and information available in the responsibility/qualification records in SAM.gov.

VII. AWARD NOTICES

- **Award Notification:** The Forest Service will notify all successful applicants via email regarding their selection for funding. A notification of project selection is <u>not</u> an authorization to begin expending funds or documenting project performance. Work may only begin after receiving the final, fully signed Federal award.
- **Pre-Award Costs:** In some instances, pre-award costs may be allowed for the project. If pre-award

costs are allowed, beginning performance is at the applicant's risk.

- **Federal Award:** The notice of Federal award signed by the Signatory Official, or equivalent, is the official document that obligates funds.
- **Notifications to Applicants Not Awarded:** The Forest Service will notify unsuccessful applicants via email shortly after successful applicants have been notified. The notification will include contact information for a Forest Service staff member who may be contacted if the applicant would like further information about their application.

VIII. POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

- **Administrative and National Policy Requirements.** The USDA General Terms and Conditions for Federal Awards and the Forest Service Federal Financial Assistance General Terms and Conditions apply to awards issued pursuant to this Notice of Funding Opportunity.
- **Reporting**
  - Interim financial reports (SF-425) and progress reports are required annually at a minimum for awarded projects. Submission instructions will be provided as part of the Federal award.
  - Accomplishment reporting in the Landscape Scale Restoration database (LaSR) is due no later than October 28 each year. This includes spatial data outlining discrete area(s) where on-the-ground implementation activities are planned/occurred.
- **Awards Exceeding $500,000:** If the Federal share of the award exceeds $500,000 over the period of performance post-award reporting requirements in 2 CFR 200 Appendix XII may apply.
- **Grant Time Frame:** All award activities will be completed within three years. Awards may be extended an additional two years with prior Forest Service approval. Funding agreements will not be extended beyond five years.
- **Specific Terms and Conditions:** Any agreement that results in an acquisition of commercial unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) technology must meet the requirements set forth in M-26-02. Please refer to Appendix B: Section 1829: Guidance on Necessary Security Capabilities of a UAS at the end of this document.

IX. OTHER INFORMATION

- In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

- Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the State or local Agency that administers the program or contact USDA through the Telecommunications Relay Service at 711 (voice and TTY). Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.
- To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 9410, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.
- USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

APPENDIX A: SAMPLE BUDGET

- One-to-one non-Federal match is required.
- Match may include cash or in-kind contributions of goods, property, and services.
- Non-match leverage may include contributions from other Federal sources.

Budget Category	Description of How Funds will be Used	Federal Funds (Whole $)	Non-Federal Match (Whole $)	Non-Match Leverage (Whole $)
a. Personnel/Labor				
b. Fringe Benefits				
c. Travel				
d. Equipment				
e. Supplies				
f. Contractual				
g. Other				
Total Direct Costs (Sum of A-G above)				
Indirect Costs				
Project Total (Direct Costs + Indirect Costs)				

Budget Category Description:

Personnel: This line item includes direct compensation to individuals for time worked. The salaries of administrative and clerical staff should normally be treated as indirect costs.

Fringe Benefits: Based on actual known costs or an established formula. Fringe benefits are for the

personnel listed in Personnel budget category and only for the percentage of time devoted to the project.

Travel: Travel for applicant's employees only. Provide a description of the travel expenses and purpose of travel relevant to the project.

Supplies: As defined at 2 CFR 200.1. This category *does not* include equipment, the purchase of which requires prior approval from the Forest Service.

Equipment: As defined at 2 CFR 200.1. Itemize equipment and cost per unit. Include items under $10,000 in the "Supplies" category. Equipment purchased with Federal funds must be approved by the relevant Forest Service region. List rented or leased equipment costs in the "Contractual" category.

Contractual:* Describe the product or services to be paid by consultant, contract, or as a lease/rental.

Other:* If there will be subawards, place those in this "Other" category. If there will be income generated as part of the project that you plan to use as match, place that in "Other" in the match column.

Indirect Costs: Applicants may request reimbursement for indirect costs using their established Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) if applicable or the de minimis rate of 15% of Modified Total Direct Costs (MTDC) per 2 CFR 200.414(f).

- MTDC are calculated as defined in 2 CFR 200.1.
- Only entities with an established NICRA are eligible to use waived unrecovered Federal indirect costs as match.

* Note: Subawards and contracts require prior approval by the Forest Service prior to issuance.

APPENDIX B: SECTION 1829 GUIDANCE ON NECESSARY SECURITY CAPABILITIES OF UAS

1. Impact Assessment

Prior to procuring a UAS through a contract, issuing a grant, or cooperative agreement that funds the procurement of a UAS to process, store, or transmit Federal information, agency personnel responsible for managing information security risk and any agency personnel responsible for operating or overseeing the operation of the UAS must jointly complete an impact assessment utilizing Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 199,[2] or any successor publications. Additionally, those personnel should coordinate with agency personnel responsible for analyzing private risks to ensure consistency between the impact assessment required by this guidance and any privacy assessment.[3]

In conducting the impact assessment required by this guidance, agencies should identify and document the types of information that may be stored in, processed by, or transferred to or from the UAS. At a minimum, this would include UAS positional data and any audio or video data supported by the UAS.

Agencies should determine for each information type whether a loss of confidentiality, integrity, or availability could be expected to result in a low, moderate, or high potential impact on agency operations, agency assets, or individuals. Making that determination will enable the agency to identify the appropriate security categories and overall system impact level for the UAS.

2. Necessary Security Capabilities

Based on the results of the impact assessment, agencies must document how they will ensure the fulfillment of the minimum-security requirements listed below, with respect to the UAS to be acquired.

A. Access control requirements:

1) If personnel remotely access UAS ground control stations, agencies should require and enforce appropriate authentication at the identification and authentication levels, including multifactor authentication per NIST SP 800-63,[4] or any successor publication.

2) If the overall system impact level for availability is moderate or high, agencies should consider whether the UAS program should be managed in accordance with an IT asset framework such as NIST SP 1800-5[5] or any successor publication.

B. Software and firmware update requirements:

1) Software and firmware updates should come only from the UAS manufacturer or a trusted (as determined by the authorizing official) third-party.

2) IT technology used for the installation and download of UAS software and firmware should be isolated from enterprise agency information systems.

3) If the overall system impact level for integrity is moderate or high, operators should conduct a file integrity check and test firmware or software updates prior to mission operations.

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[2] National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). FIPS 199, Standards for Security Categorization of Federal Information and Information Systems (2004).

[3] See Pub. L. No. 107-347, § 208. Addressing Privacy Impact Assessments; OMB Memorandum M-03-22.

[4] NIST SP 800-63-4, Digital Identify Guidelines, (last updated July 2025).

[5] NIST SP 1800-5, IT Asset Management (2018).

C. Data protection requirements:

1) To the extent practicable, UAS Federal mission-related data should be encrypted at rest and during the collection and transmittal of such information.
2) Sensitive data that is collected, stored, or processed by the UAS, or transmitted to or from it, should be cryptographically secured using approved and validated cryptographic algorithm and module.
3) Agencies should retain the ability to opt out of any uploading, downloading, or transmitting of UAS data that is not required by law or regulation. When uploading, downloading, or transmitting data is required by law or regulation, agencies should preserve the ability to choose with whole information is shared and where it is stored, to the greatest extent practicable.[6]
4) If the UAS stores or processes sensitive data, agencies should consider acquiring a UAS with remote security capabilities (e.g., remote wipe or lock). Ideally the operator should be able to trigger these remote security capabilities without manufacturer involvement.
5) If the UAS stores or processes sensitive data, operators should, consistent with applicable law, erase any Federal information with a moderate or high confidentiality designation that was collected by the UAS after each mission is completed.
6) If the overall system impact level for confidentiality is high, technical controls should be employed to disable data storage and transmission to non-approved systems.

[6] Pub. L. No. 118-31, § 1829.