

Call for proposals: National Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program

A request for proposals for the National Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Grant Program is now open. The National LSR Program is accepting project proposals for consideration for the [Federal Fiscal Year 2022](#).

Who Can Apply: State and territorial forestry agencies or an equivalent state agency, units of local government, Tribes, non-profit organizations (defined as a 501c3), and universities are eligible to submit applications. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply under this competition.

Submission Instructions: Only electronic project proposals will be accepted and considered. All project proposals must be sent electronically directly to the **Nebraska Forest Service** email, trees@unl.edu. Electronic project proposals must be sent as both a Microsoft Word document (i.e. .doc or .docx) and Adobe Portable Document Format (i.e. .PDF).

Each organization must also include a statement of qualifications identifying experience implementing similar types of grants, statement of financial stability, and a statement of performance of past grants.

Submission Deadline: Project Proposals must be submitted electronically to trees@unl.edu no later than 5:00 P.M. CDT, **September 20, 2021** to be accepted and receive consideration. Any project proposals received after 5:00 P.M. CDT on September 20, 2021 will not be accepted or considered.

Highlights for FY 2022

1. Based on mandates in the 2018 Farm Bill and procedural changes from the USDA, the Nebraska Forest Service will now review, score, and select up to five proposals from all eligible applications to enter into the regional competition for consideration for funding.
2. Projects focus on nonindustrial private forest land, or state forest land that is also rural.
 - a. Rural 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 (2010)
3. State and territorial forestry agencies or an equivalent state agency, units of local government, non-profit organizations (defined as a 501c3), universities and Tribes are eligible to submit applications.
4. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply under this competition.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) program provides USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry (S&PF) competitive grants focused on promoting collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes and on furthering priorities identified in State Forest Action Plans. Proposals are now being accepted for the fiscal year (FY) 2022 grant cycle. All proposals must use

the published 2020 [Nebraska Forest Action Plan](#) for reference, available on the Nebraska Forest Service website: nfs.unl.edu

Projects must focus on landscape-level outcomes, including a combination of land ownerships, and prioritize funding towards one or more of the following objectives:

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires;
- Improve fish and wildlife habitats, including those of threatened and endangered species;
- Maintain and 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, soil quality, and productivity.

APPLICATION DETAIL

- State forestry agencies may submit up to five applications per state. Units of local government, Tribes, non-profit organizations (defined as 501c3), and universities are eligible to submit applications and may do so by contacting their state forestry agency. Please note, per program changes by the USDA, the state forestry agency must now review and determine which applications will be submitted. Tribes may alternatively choose to submit applications (up to two applications per state above and beyond the maximum of five allowed through the state forestry agency) through the USDA Forest Service Region where the proposed project is located by contacting the relevant USDA Forest Service tribal relations or LSR staff person for that region.
- Project proposals may be submitted for any amount up to \$300,000 each and each proposal is required to demonstrate a **1:1 match** using only **non-federal funds**, unless a match waiver is acquired from the USDA Forest Service in advance of submitting the proposed project for consideration. Each state (including all applicant entities therein) is limited to no more than 15% of the total funds available for the West (likely to be at or near \$600,000 as a maximum award to any one state).
- Proposals must be based on a [State Forest Action Plan](#) or an equivalent restoration strategy.

MORE INFORMATION

- Please visit the Nebraska Forest Service website and review ***all information*** pertinent to successfully submitting an LSR proposal. There you will find an application worksheet, guidance on the LSR program and your submission, and examples of previously funded projects.
- <https://nfs.unl.edu/landscape-scale-restoration-program>

NATIONAL OVERVIEW & WESTERN GUIDANCE

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

This document includes a summary of major provisions of the proposed [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.

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 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 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.

- 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; 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 pest 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 into which one or more of these priority factors should go into in order 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.

Executive Order 13985: “Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government”: Projects are also encouraged to describe how communities/people that are historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty will be engaged, will benefit, or be supported from the project being proposed and how the project will increase equitable access.

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 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. 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, including completing a valid registration with the System Award Management (SAM) www.sam.gov annually. 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 may work through a state/island forestry agency or may coordinate with the Forest Service Region where the project is located to determine their optimal funding approach.

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 Landscape Scale Restoration (LaSR) database. 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 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, 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. Tribal trust land held in trust by the United States does not qualify as land owned by an Indian Tribe and is ineligible.

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 objectives³ (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

² Section 8102(e) of the 2018 Farm Bill and the National LSR Manual.

- 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 achievement of one or more of the Landscape Objectives.

State Caps and Minimum and Maximum Funding Levels

Five (5) proposals total may be put forward for consideration from each state, which includes all eligible entities therein. The only exception to this state proposal limit are Tribal applicants opting for the Forest Service submission process. Tribal applicants are allowed two additional proposal submissions if they route applications directly through the Forest Service (i.e. not via the state and other partners' application process). 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. The 15% cap applies to the state as a geographic area and therefore applies to all projects from all entities therein, including Tribes, in order to ensure funds have a chance to be distributed across landscapes in the West. The 15% cap thus would apply to the five (5) proposals routed through the state forestry agencies combined with the two (2) Tribal applications routed through a Forest Service Region.

- 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 (five state forestry submitted and two Forest Service Tribal applications) 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 (**Nebraska's is September 20th, 2021**) 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 west-wide 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 by the state/island forestry agency in each state (or by the Forest Service in coordination with WFLC staff for tribal applications routed via that mechanism) will be considered final and undergo review by the multi-agency LSR grants review panel.

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 applications through the relevant Tribal or LSR official in the Forest Service Region where the Tribe and its project are located. The Forest Service Regions will advance final proposals and will work with WFLC staff to enter Tribal proposals into the grant application portal. Once submitted, Tribal projects will be scored with all other applications. However, applications routed through the Forest Service will not count towards the state cap and will instead be limited to two (2) Tribal applications per state. The submission state, for purposes of this limitation, will be determined by the location of the project or, in the case of a project spanning more than one state, the Tribe will work in consultation with the Forest Service Regional Office to determine the submission state. If a Tribal project is selected for funding through this process, the Forest Service Region will work directly with the Tribe on the grant award.

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 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.

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.
- **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 outcomes.

APPLICATION

Click here for the [fillable application worksheet](#).

All successful grantees, must be willing to enter into an agreement with the University of Nebraska as a sub grantee.

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 *(5 Points. 1,500 Characters including spaces.)*

The project overview should contain the location and importance of the landscape; landscape need; high level overview of main goals, objectives, 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 *(15 points. 2,500 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 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; and/or
- Take other actions as determined by the Forest Service.

Proposed Activities and Budget (20 Points. 3,250 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.

Project Budget						
		Leverage ¹				
	Grant	Match		Non-Match	Source	TOTAL
	Funds requested	Applicant	Non-federal contributors	Applicant, non-federal, and/or federal	3 rd Party Contributor/s	Total project cost
Personnel / Labor:						
Fringe Benefits:						
Travel:						
Equipment:						
Supplies:						
Contractual:						
Construction:						
Consolidated²:						
Other:						
Indirect Costs³:						
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 (15 Points. 2,500 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 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.

Category	Description	Measure
Economic benefit	Board feet of timber (e.g. sawlogs or small diameter) produced that contribute to the forest products industry.	Board feet of forest products produced (timber)
Economic Benefit	Tons of biomass produced that contribute to the forest products industry.	Tons of forest products produced (biomass)
Hazardous Fuels Management	Acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels including prescribed fire, thinning and other actions that reduce hazardous fuels and mitigate fire risk.	Acres treated to reduce hazardous fuels
Insect and Disease Management	Acres treated for insects and disease including through chemical, mechanical, and biological actions that improve forest health conditions. This does not include acres surveyed.	Acres treated for insects and disease
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.	Infested acres treated for invasive plants
Landowner Assistance	Private forest landowners reached through technical assistance. Include landowners known to have benefited in some significant and lasting way from the project through more than one interaction. 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.	Private forest landowners reached through technical assistance

Silviculture (forest management)	Number of acres treated exclusive of other treatments already reported in another accomplishment field such fire and/or water quality treatments. This could include timber/forest stand improvements, reforestation, or afforestation associated with a forest management activity.	Acres of silvicultural practice exclusive of other reported treatments
Stewardship / Forest Management Planning	A forest management plan could include a Forest Stewardship Plan; CAP 106 plan, Tree Farm plan, tax abatement plan, equivalent stateforest management plan or a landscape plan. If a landscape plan, the plan must focus on discrete/specific geography such as a watershed and does not apply to a state-wide landscape level plan.	Acres under new forest management plans
Water Quality Enhancement	Acres of trees and seedlings planted to enhance water quality including riparian buffers, floodplain restoration and other actions that enhance water quality.	Acres of trees and seedlings planted to enhance water quality
Water Quality Enhancement	Miles of riparian forest treated to enhance 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).	Miles of riparian forest treated to enhance water quality
Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	Acres of habitat treated to protect, conserve, and enhance wildlife and fish habitat. Threatened and endangered species that will benefit from project activities should be included in the narrative accomplishments.	Acres of habitat treated to enhance wildlife
Wildlife Habitat Enhancement	Miles of riparian forest treated to protect, conserve, and enhance 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

Cross-Boundary Collaboration (15 Points. 3,250 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.

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 (10 Points. 2,250 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.

- 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 NationalLSR Manual.

Meaningful Scale (10Points. 2,000 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.

Sustainability of Outcomes (10 Points. 2,000 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.

Note for grant preparers:

- Any missing elements (11 listed above) from a proposal will result in an incomplete proposal and the proposal will not be considered.
- Proposals that exceed the number of characters allowed will result in the proposal being removed from consideration. Due to differences MS Word character counts, a 2.50% overage is allowed for this process only, when grants are entered into the portal for official scoring, all must be less than or equivalent to the characters as allowed by the portal. No exceptions are allowed.
- Proposals must be submitted to the state forester via email on or before September 20th 2021. Only proposal submitted at or before 5 pm CDT. Will be considered.
- Proposals must be submitted as a word document and a PDF. Any proposals not submitted in both formats will not be considered.
- For more information visit <https://nfs.unl.edu/landscape-scale-restoration-program>