**Request for pre-proposals: FY 24 National Landscape Scale Restoration Grant Program (LSR)**

**Nebraska Forest Service is requesting pre-proposals for consideration and submittal to the Federal Fiscal Year 2024 National Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Grant competition.** Nebraska Forest Service will review and determine which applications will be submitted to the regional competition. Five applications will be submitted.

**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.

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.

**Who Can Apply:** State and territorial forestry agencies (or an equivalent state agency), units of local

government, federally recognized Indian Tribes, non-profit organizations (defined as a 501(c)(3)), Alaska Native Corporations, and universities are eligible to receive LSR funding. For-profit entities are not eligible to apply. Tribes may also apply to this regional process but are encouraged to submit applications to the national Request for Proposals specifically for Tribes. Please see grants.gov for instructions specific to that process.

➢ Indian Tribe is defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)

**Submission Instructions:** Only electronic pre-proposals will be accepted and considered. All

Pre-proposals must be sent electronically directly to the Nebraska Forest Service email,

trees@unl.edu with the subject line: LSR PRE-PROPOSAL. Pre-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. Applicants must be eligible to receive federal funds.

Utilize the [FY 2024 LSR application and budget worksheet](https://thewflc.org/sites/default/files/FY2024WesternLSRApplicationWorksheet.pdf) for your pre-proposal submittal to the Nebraska Forest Service. Other formats or templates will not be accepted.

**Submission Deadline:** Project Pre-Proposals must be submitted electronically to trees@unl.edu no later

than **5:00 P.M. CDT, October 6th, 2023,** to be accepted and receive consideration. Any pre-proposals received after 5:00 P.M. CDT on October 6th, 2023, will not be accepted or considered.

**Please review *all information* pertinent to successfully submitting an LSR pre-proposal.** NFS follows all FY 2024 LSR program information posted on <https://www.thewflc.org/landscape-scale-restoration-competitive-grant-program>.

* Review the [FY 2024 Western Guidance](https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/LSRFY2024WesternGuidance_508.pdf%20Final.pdf) as all pre-proposals will need to meet this guidance.
* Review the [LSR Quantitative Accomplishments Requirement](https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/FY23%20LSR%20Quantitative%20Accomplishments%20Requirements.pdf) as all pre-proposals will need to identify acceptable and trackable accomplishments.
* Review the [National LSR Manual](https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/Proposed%20National%20LSR%20Manual.pdf) as all pre-proposals will need to align with this guidance.

**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. 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. Please see [Western LSR guidance](https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/LSRFY2024WesternGuidance_508.pdf%20Final.pdf) page 4 for a full description of land eligibility.

**Funding Limits:** 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**. 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).

**Authorities and Allowable Costs**: Full definition of allowable costs can be found in the [FY 2024 Western Guidance](https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/LSRFY2024WesternGuidance_508.pdf%20Final.pdf) page 9. Construction, land purchase, direct-owner payments, research activities are not allowed.

* Purchase of special-purpose (technical) equipment greater than $5,000 is allowable with prior approval by the awarding agency office (Forest Service Region)

**Forest Action Plan Alignment:** Proposals must be based on and utilize the published 2020 Nebraska Forest Action Plan for reference, available at: <https://nfs.unl.edu/statewide-forest-action-plan>

**Project Benefits and Description of Benefiting Community:** Each proposal/application MUST include a description of how the project benefits or engages underserved communities or people AND a description of the benefiting community or recipients. Full definition can be found in the [FY 2024 Western Guidance](https://www.thewflc.org/sites/default/files/LSRFY2024WesternGuidance_508.pdf%20Final.pdf) page 6.

**Contact information:** Please direct questions to Christina Hoyt, choyt2@unl.edu.