



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

**STATE, PRIVATE, & TRIBAL
FORESTRY**

**Fiscal Year 2026
Landscape Scale Restoration Grant
Program for Non-Federal Lands**

October 2026

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I. BASIC INFORMATION

The Forest Service is a Federal agency under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) that manages 193 million acres of National Forest System land. The agency also provides technical and financial assistance to over 140 million acres of State, private, and tribal lands, and makes up the largest forestry research organization in the world. The Forest Service helps people share and enjoy forests 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.

- In Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 the Forest Service is offering this one LSR non-Federal lands Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) which replaces the three regional (Southern/IITF, Western, and Northeast-Midwestern) NOFOs. Project proposals will still be reviewed and scored by regional review teams comprised of State and Forest Service staff. There is a separate national LSR Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations: USDA-FS-2026-LSR-TRIBAL.
- **Funding Opportunity Title:** Landscape Scale Restoration FY 2026 Funding Opportunity
- **Announcement Type:** Annual Grant Announcement
- **Funding Opportunity Number:** [USDA-FS-2026-LSR](#)
- **Assistance Listing Number(s):** 10.742—Landscape-Scale Restoration
- **Funding:**
 - **Estimated Total Program Funding:** Up to \$12.6 million in funding has been appropriated. Up to \$11,340,000 in funding will be available for the LSR non-Federal lands funding opportunity.
 - **Expected Number of Awards:** 20-40 awards estimated, to be determined by individual award funding requests.

- **Individual Award Funding:**

- Minimum: \$100,000 per project. \$50,000 per project for the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau (Palau), the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- Maximum: \$300,000 for single-State projects; \$600,000 for multistate projects.

Note: The maximum amount of Federal funding awarded that benefits any one State or Tribe via this competitive process is 15 percent of the total available for relevant regional set of projects. The Agency reserves the right to award an applicant less than the funding requested based on funding availability and project eligibility.

- **Key Dates:**

- **State Forester Sponsorship:**

- **December 17, 2026:** Submit the draft application narrative and budget to the State Forester(s) for any State(s) that would benefit directly from the project outcomes.
- All applications except those submitted by federally recognized Tribes require the relevant State Forester(s) to sponsor the project. Each State Forester may sponsor/participate in up to a total of 10 applications, including up to 5 single-State applications and up to 5 multistate applications.

- **Application Due Date:** Submit applications in Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern, Tuesday, January 26, 2027.
- **Anticipated Award Date:** Spring 2027
- **Expected Time to Process Application and Notify Applicant:** 2-4 months after application deadline.

- **Agency Contact Information:**

Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact and work directly with the appropriate State Forester and Forest Service staff during application development to ensure the project aligns with the program's goals and eligibility requirements.

Forest Service contacts for LSR:

- **Northeast and Midwest:** Sherri Wormstead, LSR Program Lead, 603-244-0799, sherri.j.wormstead@usda.gov.

For projects located in one or more of the following States: Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wisconsin.

- **South and IITF:** Emily Rhoades, LSR Program Lead, 470-388-1063, SM.FS.LSR_South@usda.gov.

For projects located in one or more of the following States or territories: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virgin Islands of the United States, and Virginia.

- **West:**

- 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, Pacific Islands: Jeremy Gooding, jeremy.gooding@usda.gov
- OR, WA, AK: Karl Dalla Rosa, karl.dallarosa@usda.gov

For projects located in one or more of the following States or territories: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, Territory of American Samoa, Republic of Palau, Federated States of Micronesia, Territory of Guam, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

State Forester contacts: State Forester contact information is on the [National Association of State Foresters website](#).

II. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- **Eligible Applicants:**
 - State forestry agency or appropriate/equivalent State agency
 - Unit of local government
 - Indian Tribe*
 - Alaska Native Corporation
 - Native Hawaiian Organization
 - Non-profit organization
 - Institution of higher learning

*Note: There is a separate national LSR NOFO for federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations: [USDA-FS-2026-LSR-TRIBAL](#). Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations may apply to either or both NOFOs but cannot receive more than one award for the same scope of work.

- **Restrictions:** For-profit entities are **not** eligible to apply for a grant under this program.
- **Disqualifying Criteria:** For profit entities are **not** eligible to apply for a grant under this program.
- **Funding Restrictions Affecting Eligibility:** Cost-share of 1:1 non-Federal funds **is** required.
- **Factors Disqualifying an Application:**
 - Projects that do not meet eligible land definition, 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:**

- Each State Forester may sponsor up to a total of 10 applications, including up to 5 single State applications and up to 5 multistate applications. For multistate applications, all projects that the State would benefit from count towards the 5 multistate applications cap.
- Federally Recognized Tribes are limited to 2 applications. Tribal proposals submitted to this NOFO will be scored with all other proposals. However, Tribal proposals will not count towards the single State proposal cap. They may also submit applications to the separate NOFO for federally recognized Tribes.
- **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 with non-Federal sources. For example, if the requested Federal amount is \$100,000, the non-Federal match must be at least \$100,000.
 - **Cost-sharing exception:** Pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1469a, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau (Palau), the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, are not required to provide 1:1 match for a grant of \$500,000 or less.
 - **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 leveraged funding. Non-match leveraged funding may include contributions such as construction, 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 project objectives. A project proposal must maximize grant funding by using it to leverage contributions from non-Federal entities.

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.

Note: Tribal land and Tribal trust land held by Tribes and individuals are eligible.

State Forest land is land that is:

- Rural (as defined in this section);
- Owned by a State or local Government; and
- Considered to be non-Federal forest land.

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 a [State Forest Action Plan](#) or equivalent science-based restoration strategy.
 - Promote cross-boundary collaboration by their proximity to other land ownerships or inclusion of a combination of landownership including Tribal, State, local government, and 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.
 - Leverage funding from multiple entities. Leverage includes the 1:1 cost share and non-match leveraged funding (in addition to the 1:1 cost share).
- **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 [State Forest Action Plan](#), Tribal Forest 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 should work across land ownerships—with States, units of local government, Tribes, and non-industrial private forest landowners—to achieve 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**

Measurable Outcomes: Each LSR project must 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.

- **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 reduce or 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/or 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 Forest Stewardship Plan, Tribal forest management 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, the grantee organization could pay for consulting services or treatment activities to be performed on private lands with permission of the landowner.
- **Basic research**, 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 and agreements 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 to restoring resilience to the nation’s forests.

- **Examples of Previously Successful Projects:** Previously 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.
 - Wildfire fuels management including thinning, prescribed burning, and multi-resource wildfire planning to reduce wildfire risk to communities.
 - Watershed health improvements in critical water supply areas, 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.
 - Restoration of forests following damaging events such as wildfires or hurricanes, including tree planting to improve water quality and working with small forest landowners on post-disaster planning and recovery.
 - 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 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:** The following are required as part of the application submitted to Grants.gov.
 - **SF-424: Application for Federal Assistance**
 - **SF-424A: Budget Information**
 - **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](#) and an example budget spreadsheet is available in the Grants.gov opportunity “Related Documents” tab. Read the “Instructions” worksheet. Ensure the totals in your detailed budget are equal to the totals in the SF-424 A.
 - **State Forester Sponsorship Letter(s):** All applications, except those submitted by federally recognized Tribes, must include at least one State Forester sponsorship (letter or email from the State Forester) for a State(s) that will benefit from the outcomes of the project.

Each State Forester will provide one letter or email with the list of the up to 10 applications they are sponsoring/participating in or they may provide a letter or email for each application. State Forester contact information is on the [National Association of State Foresters website](#).
- **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.
- **Optional Contents:**
 - Project location maps and support letters from partners, especially those contributing to the projects are optional but encouraged. These may be uploaded as separate attachments in Grants.gov or may be included in an appendix in the narrative. These do not count towards the narrative 5-page limit.
 - States may include a priority ranking if more than one project is submitted, but it is not required. State priority ranks will be considered by the regional review panel but not scored.
- **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.
Total narrative length of up to 5 pages.
 1. **Project Title:** Provide a descriptive title for this project. Use this full title consistently on all documents, including letters of support.
 2. **Project Applicant:** Name of the organization applying for Federal funding.

3. **Program Contact:** The name, title, phone number, and email for the project or program, 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 State Forest Action Plan (SFAP) or equivalent restoration strategy.
6. **Project Location:** Brief list of town(s) or county(ies) and land ownership type for the on-the-ground outcomes.
7. **Multistate or Cross-Regional Project Status:** Indicate if this is a multistate and/or cross-regional project. For multistate and cross-regional projects, list all relevant States that are sponsoring/participating in the project.
8. **Partner Organizations:** List all partner organizations that will actively participate in this project. Organizations should not be listed unless they have agreed to participate.
9. **Project Description:** (*Up to 5,500 characters including spaces*) Provide a comprehensive but succinct description that includes the following:
 - a. Project goals, strategies, objectives;
 - b. The project natural resource values of importance 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, and the sources of these funds/resources.
10. **State Forest Action Plan Priorities and Integration:** (*Up to 2,000 characters including spaces*). Demonstrate how the objectives of the project will help further the priorities in the SFAP or equivalent restoration strategy and how the project will bring a State, region, or area to a desired future condition, goal, or strategy as articulated within the SFAP or equivalent strategy.
11. **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.
12. **Collaboration/Cross boundary:** (*Up to 2,000 characters including spaces*) Identify partners that are actively engaged and add value towards project planning and implementation. Collaboration, both qualitative and quantitative, should be explained in detail, as well as any coordination with or proximity to other land ownerships.

13. Sustainability of Outcomes: (*Up to 2,000 characters including spaces*) Provide rationale for how dollars invested and partnerships will sustain project outcomes into the future, beyond the project end date (e.g., enhanced skills or learning, replicability, etc.). Describe how the project results in knowledge and technical transfer.

- **Detailed budget:** Include a detailed budget for Federal funds, non-Federal match, and non-match leverage. See [Appendix A](#) for sample budget tables. 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 "Other." 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.
 - If an applicant elects to assess less than their approved NICRA rate, note that in the budget.

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

V. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DEADLINES

- **Application Materials:** Application materials and a copy of this NOFO 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](#)
 - 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:** Send the application narrative and budget to the relevant State Forester(s) for their sponsorship as soon as feasible and no later than Thursday, December 17, 2026.
- **Application Submission Methods:** Applicants must apply for this funding opportunity through [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). No emailed, mailed, or faxed applications will be accepted.
- An online Grants.gov account is required to view, create, and submit a grant application package. The organization's Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) obtained during the SAM registration must be added to the organization's Grants.gov profile. The organization's EBiz Point of Contact will need to create an account using the same email address as used in the SAM.gov registration. Individuals in your organization who will work on the application in Grants.gov need to create a Grants.gov account. The Expanded Authorized Organization Representative for your organization can then assign you to access applications for your organization. See the [Grants.gov Applicant Registration web page](#) for instructions.
- Apply by creating a Workspace from the Grants.gov NOFO. Workspace is the standard way for organizations or individuals to apply for Federal grants in Grants.gov. Workspace allows a grant team to simultaneously access and edit different forms within an application. See the [Grants.gov Workspace Overview web page](#) for instructions.

- **Applicant Support:** For additional training resources, including video tutorials, refer to the [Grants.gov Training page](#). Grants.gov provides applicants 24/7 support via the toll-free number 1-800-518-4726 and by email at support@grants.gov. If you have issues with accessing or submitting your application, call the Grants.gov Support Center.
- **Submission Dates and Times:** Final applications must be submitted through Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m. Eastern, Tuesday, January 26, 2027.
- **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**

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 to take place on eligible land
- Project furthers specific priorities in a State Forest Action Plan or equivalent Restoration Strategy.
- Project will achieve on-the-ground outcomes as defined by the national quantitative accomplishment measures.
- Proposed activities are all 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.

1. 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."

2. 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 the State Forest Action Plan or equivalent 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 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

3. 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, which should link to project goals and objective(s). The source of match and non-match leveraged funds is specified and costs should be well-detailed. Projects that leverage match and non-match funding from multiple entities will be given priority.

4. 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 State Forest Action Plan or equivalent 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.

5. State Forest Action Plan or Equivalent Restoration Strategy Integration (10 points)

Clearly demonstrates how the objectives of the project will help further the priorities in the State Forest Action Plan or other statewide restoration strategies. Describes the need for the proposed project and relates it to one or more significant priority landscapes, issues, or strategies identified in the State Forest Action Plan or equivalent statewide restoration strategy. Describes how the project will bring a State, region, or area to a desired future condition, goal, or strategy as articulated within the State Forest Action Plan or equivalent statewide strategy. Thoroughly explains the alignment that exists between the proposed actions and the State Forest Action Plan, emphasizing why the proposal is needed in that location and is supported by the best available science.

6. Cross Boundary Collaboration (10 points)

Proposal addresses all elements listed below and demonstrates use of coordination and partnerships with complementary State and Federal programs to improve outcomes.

- Clearly identify partners that are actively engaged and add value towards project planning and implementation.
- Collaboration, both qualitative and quantitative, explained in detail. Some examples of how collaboration can be demonstrated include: Project convenes regular meetings/dialogue of partners, and proposal describes how the project organizes partners/landowners around common goals/objectives, sharing of funding or resources, partnering on previous successful projects/history of prior collaborative work, and explaining how the project generates commitment to working across boundaries for the achievement of the project.
- Describes how the project promotes cross-boundary collaboration. Details any coordination with or proximity to other land ownerships or inclusion of a combination of land ownerships, including Tribal, State, local government, and private lands.
- Coordinates 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, Stewardship Agreements, and any other relevant programs.

7. Sustainability of Outcomes and Technical Transfer (10 points)

Provides rationale for why dollars invested will sustain project outcomes into the future, beyond the

project end date (e.g., enhanced skills or learning, replicability, future plans related to the State Forest Action Plan or equivalent restoration strategy that build upon this successful project, etc.). Explains how the development and/or strengthening of partnerships may also be a means of supporting project outcomes beyond the project end date. Describes how others will learn from project implementation, including the project's potential to inform practitioners and enhance the effectiveness of similar initiatives.

- **Application Reviewers**

The Forest Service will establish three review teams, consisting of an equal number of State representatives and U.S. Forest Service representatives, which will collaboratively review and score applications. Review teams will correspond to three geographic areas (Northeast and Midwest, South and IITF, and West). The review scores are used to create the ranked project list.

- **Pacific Island Sub-Competition:** Projects submitted by the Pacific Island agencies will adhere to the same deadlines and guidance, be submitted through Grants.gov, and be scored with all other applications. Successful Pacific Island projects of \$200,000 or less per project will be funded via the Pacific Island sub-competition for up to a total project pool of \$300,000, contingent upon the availability of funds. This offers an opportunity for smaller projects from Pacific Island applicants to compete for portions of this funding.

When/if those funds are exhausted, any remaining Pacific Island proposals will compete as normal with other submissions for funding. Any Pacific Island projects requesting funding greater than \$200,000 will not be eligible for participation in the sub-competition and will compete within the larger Western LSR competition process. Any funding not used in the Pacific Island sub-competition will be returned to the larger Western LSR funding pool.

- **Review and Selection Process**

- Applications will undergo a preliminary review to ensure eligibility and verify requirements.
- The interagency review team will review applications using the scoring criteria in this document and develop a ranked project list.
- The review teams will submit the ranked project lists to the appropriate Forest Service Senior Executive for approval.

For cross-regional projects, the relevant U.S. Forest Service Regions and Regional State Forester Organizations will coordinate to determine which will review and score the application.

- **Risk Review**

- **Risk Review Factors:** In accordance with 2 CFR 200.206, before any funding is awarded, the U.S. 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 not an authorization to begin expending funds or documenting project performance. Work may only begin after receiving the final, fully-signed Federal award. The Federal award is the authorizing document.
- **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 NOFO.
- **Reporting**
 - Interim financial reports (SF-425) and performance reports are required annually at a minimum for awarded projects. Submission instructions will be provided as part of the grant agreement.
 - 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: DETAILED BUDGET EXAMPLE

The detailed budget table(s) or spreadsheet provides more detail than the SF-424A by explaining the Federal and non-Federal match costs associated with implementing the proposal narrative. The costs described in the detailed budget must align with the costs in the SF424 and SF424A. The following is an example, but not a required format.

Budget Category	Description of How Funds Will Be Used for Each Relevant Category	Federal Funding to Applicant (Whole Dollars)
Personnel/ Labor:	1 forest health specialist @ \$50/hr x 400 hrs = \$20,000. 2 field technicians @ \$25/hr x 480 hrs each = \$24,000	\$44,000
Fringe Benefits:	Fringe benefits calculated at 30% on personnel costs.	\$13,200
Travel:	Travel for crew of 2 to perform silvicultural treatments estimated at 60 field days; per diem average expense \$181/day, per person (\$113 each day for lodging and \$68 each day for meals).	\$21,720
Equipment: ¹		\$0
Supplies:	Field supplies including pruning clippers (10@\$40/unit), chainsaws (2@ \$250/unit), fuel for saws (\$1,000), forestry flagging tape (40 rolls@ \$10/unit) and personal protection equipment (helmets, chaps, eye and ear protection estimated at \$770 total).	\$3,070
Contractual:	Contract to University X for lab identification of forest diseases, estimate 100 samples at a cost of \$46.50 per sample.	\$4,650
Other:	Subaward to Cooperative Extension to provide technical assistance to 75 private landowners at a cost of \$100 for each technical assistance visit.	\$7,500
Total Direct Costs:		\$94,140
Indirect Costs:	De minimis indirect @15% of Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC), which is 15% of \$94,140.	\$14,121
Total Fed. \$:		\$108,261

¹ Equipment = Equipment is defined as having a single unit value of \$10,000 or greater with a useful life of more than 1 year. Itemize equipment and cost per unit. Include items under \$10,000 in the "Supplies" category. Equipment purchased with Federal funds requires tracking and reporting that may extend well beyond the life of the grant.

Budget Category	Description of How Funds Will Be Used for Each Relevant Category	Non-Fed. Match Contributed by Applicant [Name]	Non-Fed. Match Contributed by Financial Partner [type org. name if relevant]	Non-Fed. Match Contributed by Financial Partner 2 [type org. name if relevant]	Total
Personnel/ Labor:	5 Field Technicians for forest health surveys and collection of pest and disease samples @ \$25/hr x 480 hrs each	\$60,000	-	-	\$60,000
Fringe Benefits:	Fringe benefits calculated at 30% on personnel costs.	\$18,000	-	-	\$18,000
Travel:	Travel for 1 person for 74 days of landowner technical assistance visits (\$113 each day for lodging and \$68 each day for meals = \$181 per day for each person).	-	\$13,394	-	\$13,394
Equipment:		-	-	-	-
Supplies:	Supplies for 74 technical assistance visits with landowners, including for printing resource materials and maps (\$300) and tablet for recording visits (\$321).	-	\$621		\$621
Contractual:		-	-	-	-
Other:	Supporting communications via flyers and social media to reach private landowners provided by Cooperative Extension (\$1,842). Use of field equipment at no cost provide by partner 2, including tractors and haulers (\$14,406 based on rental cost of \$277 a day for 52 days).	-	\$1,842	\$14,404	\$16,246
Indirect Costs:		-	-	-	-
Total Match:		\$78,000	\$15,857	\$14,404	\$108,261

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 1800-5⁵ 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.

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.