US Forest Service Landscape Scale Restoration Program

Technical Assistance Webinar

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National Program Manager
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Webinar Agenda

1. Program Overview
2. Program Eligibility & Requirements
3. How to Apply
4. Project Highlights
5. Proposal Tips
6. Frequently Asked Questions
7. Discussion
Landscape Scale Restoration - Overview

- Authorized in 2018 Farm Bill

- Emphasizes cross-boundary, large landscape, placed-based projects to achieve on-the-ground outcomes.

- Administered through 3 regional competitive processes – southern, western, and eastern.

- Tribal Request for Proposals administered nationally
Program 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.

Photo Courtesy of Steve Neel
Program Eligibility and Requirements
Eligibility – Who can Apply

• Federally Recognized Tribe or Tribal organization
• Alaska Native Corporation and Village
• State forestry agency
• Unit of local government
• Nonprofit organization
• Institution of higher learning
Eligibility - Location of Projects

Nonindustrial private forest land that is:

- Rural;
- Has existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees; and
- Is owned by any private individual, group, association, corporation, Indian Tribe* or other private legal entity.

State forest land that is:

- Rural;
- Under State or local government ownership

Rural is defined as all areas outside Census places (cities, towns) with 50,000 or more people according to the latest United States Census

* Includes Tribal trust land held both by Tribes and by individuals and Tribally-owned fee lands.
Rural
Eligible Project Activities

• Water quality and watershed health improvements, including efforts to improve forest health, reduce wildfire risk, and restore riparian forests.

• Enhance habitat for wildlife and fish species, including threatened and endangered species.

• Wildfire fuels management including thinning, cultural fire, multi-resource wildfire planning, and invasive species management.

• Survey, prioritization, and treatment to control invasive plants in a high-priority landscape.

• Reforestation with trees and seedlings that are suitable for timber and food production.
Ineligible Project Activities

- Activities in Census places (cities or towns) with greater than 50,000 inhabitants.
- Research
- Construction and capital expenditures (e.g., facilities, infrastructure, roads, new buildings, culverts, and boardwalks).
- Small business start-up funding.
- Cost-share, reimbursement, and other types of payment provided directly to private landowners.
- Land acquisition (conservation easement and fee simple) projects.
- Fencing that is part of a farm or agricultural operation. A fence is an allowable expense if it part of a silvicultural practice.
- Equipment purchase requires prior approval by the Region.
Program Requirements - Restoration Strategy

- Is complete or substantially complete;
- Is for a multi-year period;
- Covers non-industrial private forest land or state forest land;
- Is accessible by wood processing infrastructure; and
- Is based on the best available science.
Program Requirements - Measurable Outcomes

- Acres treated to reduce or mitigate hazardous fuels
- Infested acres treated for invasive plants
- Acres treated for insects and disease
- Forest landowners reached through technical assistance
- Acres under a new forest management plan
- Acres of trees and seedlings planted to improve water quality
- Number of trees, saplings, and/or seedlings planted to improve water quality
- Miles of riparian forest treated to improve water quality
- Acres of forest treated to improve wildlife and fish habitat
- Miles of riparian forest treated to improve wildlife and fish habitat
- Board feet of logs/sawlogs produced that contribute to the forest products industry
- Tons of pulpwood or biomass produced that contribute to the forest products industry
Project Funding and Match

Minimum and Maximum Funding:
- $50,000 to $300,000/project.
- Up to $600,000/project: cross-boundary projects with more than one Tribal applicant

Matching Requirements:
1:1 match requirement

Leverage:
LSR funds leverage contributions from both Federal (e.g., BIA, EPA, FWS) and non-Federal entities.

Eligible Sources of Match:
- Funding from the Tribe or partners
- Volunteer time implementing the project
- Donation of equipment, supplies, meeting space
- Services provided at a reduced cost
- Tribal 638 BIA Contracting Funds
How to Apply
GRANTS.GOV: USDA-FS-2024-LSR-NATIONAL-TRIBAL
Project Narrative

- Project Title
- Project Applicant
- Applicant Type
- Project Contact
- Primary Objective
- Project Landscape, Goals, and Objectives
- Priorities in Science-Based Restoration Strategy
- Cross boundary Collaboration
- Proposed Activities and Leveraged Resources
- Measurable Outcomes
- Sustainability of Outcomes
- Project Budget
Key Dates

30 Oct. 2023
Optional review of draft proposal by Regional staff

15 Dec. 2023
Final proposals: 6 p.m. Eastern, December 15, 2023 (submitted to SM.FS.LSR@usda.gov)

Feb. 2024
National Review Panel
Proposal Evaluation

- **(10 points)** Landscape values of importance
- **(20 Points)** Priorities identified in a science-based restoration strategy (e.g., Tribal Forest Plan).
- **(20 Points)** Cross boundary collaboration and complementary landscape restoration initiatives, strategies, and plans
- **(20 Points)** Proposed activities and leverage
- **(20 Points)** Measurable outcomes on the landscape
- **(10 Points)** Sustainability of outcomes
Project Highlights
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest Service Region</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Tribe or Alaska Native Corporation</th>
<th>Project Name</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>AK</td>
<td>The Kuskokwim Corporation</td>
<td>Kuskokwim Climate Resilient Forestry &amp; Harvest Program</td>
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<td>Kenaitze Indian Tribe</td>
<td>Kenaitze's LSR Program: Land Improvements and Supportive Services</td>
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<td>NY</td>
<td>Seneca Nation of Indians</td>
<td>Ode:ka': Creating Biodiversity Through Indigenous Methods of Prescribed Fire</td>
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<td>NM</td>
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<td>Isleta East Mountains fuel reduction</td>
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<td>WMAT Mt. Baldy Fuels Reduction Project</td>
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<td>Coeur d'Alene Tribe</td>
<td>Hangman Creek Watershed Restoration</td>
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<td>CA</td>
<td>Hoopa Valley Tribe</td>
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<td>Kalispel Tribe of Indians</td>
<td>Forest Fuels Management Through Biochar Air Curtain Burners</td>
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<td>Pechanga Band of Indians</td>
<td>Restoration of Goldspotted Oak Borer-Affected Coast Live Oaks on Pechanga Reservation</td>
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<td><strong>Total Funding</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,000,000</strong></td>
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**Project Highlight – Isleta East Mountains Fuel Reduction, Pueblo of Isleta**

- **Landscape:** 150 acres on the east boundary of Pueblo of Isleta. Important for water and wildlife and at risk of uncharacteristic wildfire.

- **Restoration Strategy:** Enhance the Pueblo of Isleta Interim Forest Management Plan by reducing density of existing fire prone stands of mixed pine forest

- **Project activities:** Fuels reduction/thinning, community fuel wood distribution, multi-resource landscape scale management plan development

- **Partners:** Cibola National Forest, New Mexico State Land Office.
Project Highlight – Ode:ka’: Creating Biodiversity through Indigenous Methods of Prescribed Fire, Seneca Nation of Indians

- **Landscape:** 50 acres Seneca Nation of Indians forest land in Alleghany Territory in Western New York.

- **Project Goals:** Improve fish and wildlife habitat, forest biodiversity and health, and reduce risk of wildfires.

- **Restoration Strategy:**
  - Seneca Nation Forest Management Plan
  - New York State Forest Action Plan

- **Project activities:** Prescribed burning, tree planting (white oak), invasive species mitigation, monitoring, community outreach.

- **Partners:** New York State Parks, Allegheny National Forest
Proposal Tips
Tips for Competitive Proposals

**Clear Writing:** Succinct who, what, when, where, and why. Good organization and formatting. Have others review/edit.

**Why Important?** Clear problem or goal statement with information to provide context for the issue and/or project area.

**Identify the land ownership(s)** where activities will take place (e.g., trust land, fee lands).

**Restoration Strategy:** Strong, direct, detailed connection to specific priorities/strategies.

**Cross-Boundary:** Detailed connection to other complementary strategies/efforts in the project landscape. Describe if builds on existing efforts in project area/adjacent lands.
Tips for Competitive Proposals

**Measurable Outcomes:** Strong focus and description on realistic outcomes. Include how progress will be measured.

**Budget:** Clear explanation of how USFS funds and match will be used. Costs relative to deliverables. Make sure the math adds up across the narrative form (proposed activities) and budget table. Split out supplies from equipment.

**Funded LSR Projects:** Look at what’s been funded on national and regional program webpages (e.g., LSR project search tool, Forestry Grants US, LSR map viewer).

**Grant award:** Ensure SAM and NICRA are current or in process, consider Tribal council approval or resolution.

**Reach out to Forest Service:** Reach out to the USDA Forest Service Regional program managers with questions regarding activities allowed, sources of match, etc.

Don’t be discouraged if a past application was not funded—try again!
Resources

National Landscape Scale Restoration Webpage
- How to Apply
- Public search tool
- Map Viewer
- Prior year funded project lists

Regional Landscape Scale Restoration Webpages
- Forestry Grants US
- Region 9 - Grants & Agreements (usda.gov)
- Region 8 - Grants & Agreements (usda.gov)
Regional Program Contacts

**Eastern Region** (CT, DC, DE, IA, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI, WV)
- Sherri Wormstead, LSR Program Lead: 603-742-6712, sherri.j.wormstead@usda.gov
- Paul Cloutier, Tribal Relations Program Manager, with focus on CT, DC, DE, IA, Southern IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, and WV: 970-792-5300, gene.cloutier@usda.gov
- Kira Kaufmann, Tribal Relations Program Manager, with focus on Northern IL, MI, MN, and WI: 715-401-2610, kira.kaufmann@usda.gov

**Intermountain Regions** (ID, NV, UT)
- Jennifer Hensiek, LSR Program Lead: 406-529-8159, jennifer.hensiek@usda.gov

**Northern Region** (MT, ND)
- Jennifer Hensiek, LSR Program Lead: 406-529-8159, jennifer.hensiek@usda.gov
- Christine Bradbury, Tribal Relations Program Manager: 208-476-8227, christine.bradbury@usda.gov
- John Kinsner, Tribal Relations Program Manager: 406-253-0699, john.kinsner@usda.gov

**Rocky Mountain Region** (CO, KS, NE, SD, WY)
- Amie Anderton, LSR Program Lead: 208-484-8774, amie.anderton@usda.gov
- Jon Vladimirtsev, Tribal Relations Program Manager: 307-713-3000, jon.vladimirtsev@usda.gov
# Regional Program Contacts

## Southwestern Region (AZ, NM)
- Loren Ingalls, LSR Program Lead: 505-934-1907, loren.ingalls@usda.gov
- Laura Moser, Cooperative Forestry Program Manager: 928-607-6040, laura.moser@usda.gov
- Elizabeth Bigelow, Tribal Relations Program Manager: elizabeth.e.bigelow@usda.gov

## Pacific Southwest Region (CA, HI)
- Stacey Clark, LSR Program Lead: 707-562-8916, stacey.clark@usda.gov
- Rowena Yeahquo, Tribal Relations Program Manager t: 707-980-0390, rowena.yeahquo@usda.gov

## Pacific Northwest (OR, WA)
- Lisa Romano, LSR Program Lead: 541-207-6815, lisa.romano@usda.gov
- Kristi Harper, Regional Tribal Relations Program Manager: kristine.harper@usda.gov

## Southern Region (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA)
- Paul Gellerstedt, LSR Program Lead: 470-585-9154, paul.gellerstedt@usda.gov
- Lexie Rue-Harris, Tribal Relations Program Manager: 479-508-7553, lexi.rue-harris@usda.gov

## Alaska Region
- Michael Shephard, LSR Program Lead: 907-743-9451, michael.Shephard@usda.gov
- Kevin Hood, Tribal Relations Program Manager: 907-586-7829, kevin.e.hood@usda.gov
National Program Contacts & Resources

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National Landscape Scale Restoration Program Manager

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For more information, visit:
Landscape Scale Restoration

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is there a set or specific acreage for what constitutes a landscape?
2. Can LSR funds be used to purchase equipment?
3. Can LSR funds be used for indirect costs?
4. Are fee lands eligible in addition to trust lands?
5. What is considered cross boundary? Is federal and state considered cross boundary?
6. What is the difference between match and “leverage”?
7. What is the duration of a funded project?
8. Are forest management plans an allowable project activity?
Questions?
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