



Forestry Assistance Bureau Forest Stewardship Grants Request for Proposals

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 15, 2025



The current challenging conditions of Montana's forests require strategically identifying opportunities to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risk. The 2020 Montana Forest Action Plan identifies where priority forest treatments should be focused statewide while acknowledging the need to work collaboratively to achieve cross-boundary landscape scale success. Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) Forest Stewardship Grants provide funding to support a portion of the expense of implementing sustainable forest management and developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs).

This guide includes information for each DNRC Forest Stewardship Grant program. Request for Proposal applications will be via Submittable, linked (below) in the announcement. Project proposals should outline the scope, scale and intent of the project, while aligning with [Montana Forest Action Plan Priority Areas for Focused Attention](#). The Request for Proposals process is designed to solicit the best project proposals; eligibility to apply for funding will be determined from these proposals.

Funding for most of these programs is derived from a federal award of the USDA Forest Service to the DNRC. This Institute is an equal opportunity provider



In this guide

**Landscape Scale
Restoration**
pg. 2

**Wildland Urban
Interface**
pg. 3

**Montana Forest
Action Plan**
pg. 4

**Application Guidance &
Upcoming Opportunities**
pg. 5

[TO APPLY CLICK HERE](#)

Availability of Federal funds is not guaranteed.



LANDSCAPE SCALE RESTORATION GRANT PROGRAM

PROJECTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING INTENT:

- Projects must meet the definitions of rural, state, or non-industrial private forestlands* and align with priority issues and landscapes identified in the [Montana Forest Action Plan](#).
- Qualifying projects should fall into one or more categories:
 - Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires
 - Improve fish and wildlife habitats
 - Improve water quality and watershed function
 - Mitigate invasive species, insect infestation, and disease
 - Improve important forest ecosystems
 - Measure ecological and economic benefits including soil and air quality and productivity
- Strong proposals will align with [E.O. 13985](#) by supporting under-served communities.

GRANT AMOUNT & REVIEW

- Budget requests should be \$255,000 or less.
- Proposals are reviewed annually. The DNRC forest stewardship program works with partners to edit their proposals before sending them on to the regional competitive application process.

MATCH

- Requires a 4:1 federal to non-federal dollars match, 25% calculated as a percentage of total grant funds requested.
- Proposals are encouraged to leverage cross-boundary federal projects to enhance landscape-level impact.

BACKGROUND

The Landscape Scale Restoration Grant program is a competitive application program that encourages collaborative, cross-boundary science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes. Source-funding is USFS State, Private, and Tribal Forestry dollars. Availability of Federal funds is not guaranteed. The program supports landscape-scale projects on state, private, and Tribal forest lands that address Montana Forest Action Plan priorities while leveraging public and private resources.

TO LEARN MORE

Contact your regional grant specialist, listed in the back of this guide.

*Land with existing tree cover or is suitable for growing trees; and is owned by a private landowner, Indian Tribe, or state. Rural designation means US Census populated place or area with a population less than 50,000.



WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE GRANT PROGRAM

PROJECTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING INTENT:

- Protect communities within the wildland urban interface (WUI) through outcome-driven, cross-boundary, innovative projects that align with priority areas identified in the [Montana Wildfire Risk Assessment](#).
- Qualifying projects should fall into one or more categories:
 - Hazardous fuel reduction in the WUI.
 - WUI-based prevention and education initiatives
 - Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) development or update.

GRANT AMOUNT & REVIEW

- Budget requests should be \$255,000 or less.
- Proposals are reviewed annually. The DNRC forest stewardship program works with partners to edit their proposals before sending them on to the regional competitive application process.

MATCH

- Requires a 4:1 federal to non-federal dollars match, 25% calculated as a percentage of total grant funds requested.
- For hazardous fuels reduction projects, match should be met by the landowners through contributions towards the completion of their project.

BACKGROUND

The Western States Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Grant program supports establishing fire adapted communities, restoring resilient landscapes, and fostering effective response to wildland fire.

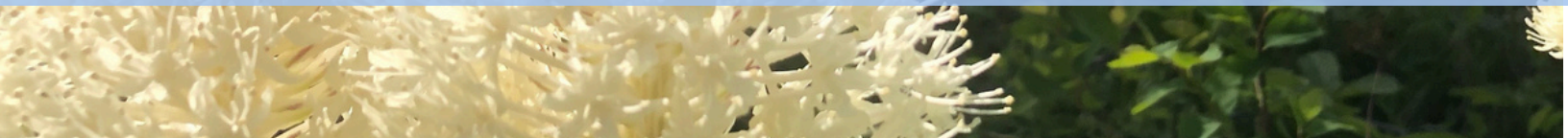
Source-funding is USFS State, Private, and Tribal Forestry dollars. Availability of Federal funds is not guaranteed. These funds are used by the states and territories exclusively for projects on non-federal lands and cannot be used to compensate federal labor or expenses.

TO LEARN MORE

Contact your regional grant specialist, listed in the back of this guide.



MONTANA FOREST ACTION PLAN GRANT PROGRAM



PROJECTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING INTENT:

- Implement cross-boundary innovative projects that align with priority areas identified in the [Montana Forest Action Plan](#), Montana [Wildfire Risk Assessment](#), or local Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).
- Occur on private, local, State, Tribal, as well as federal lands through the Good Neighbor Authority.
- Qualifying projects should fall into one or more of the following categories:
 - Improve forest health
 - Reduce wildfire risk
 - Support urban forests
- Project proposals will be reviewed to determine eligibility for application development.

GRANT AMOUNT AND MATCH:

- For single party projects, budget requests may be up to \$300,000. Minimum project budget of \$50,000.
- For multi-party projects, which involve treatment on a combination of private, local, State, Tribal, and/or federal parcels, requests may be up to \$500,000.
- Requires a 4:1 State to non-State dollars match, calculated as 25% of total grant funds requested.

BACKGROUND

The [2020 Montana Forest Action Plan](#) convened key statewide stakeholders and Tribal nations to reassess statewide forest conditions, identify priority areas for treatment, and develop a cross-boundary plan to accomplish landscape-scale forest restoration.

Forest conditions and the consequences of those conditions affect all Montanans regardless of land ownership. By working to align the efforts of diverse partners across the State, we can advance a common mission of strengthening our shared stewardship of Montana's forests.

Cross-boundary forest restoration and management prioritizes and amplifies collaborative efforts that bring together stakeholders representing diverse perspectives, interests, and expertise.

TO LEARN MORE

Contact your regional grant specialist, listed in the back of this guide.

PROJECT PROPOSAL GUIDANCE

- Project proposals are submitted through the following [link](#) (included on page 1 of this guide).
- Proposals will be reviewed to determine eligibility for application development.
- Project proposals are requested to provide:
 - Budget
 - Project description
 - Timeline
 - Collaboration
 - Cross-boundary opportunities
- In the application, each section of the project proposal (listed above) includes prompts associated with the section. Be sure to provide information in response to each of these prompts. Proposals are reviewed based on an applications clear responses to the prompts for each section.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITY: CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT

The DNRC has secured Environmental Protection Agency funding through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to effectively manage forests to increase rates of carbon sequestration and maintain resiliency to the impacts of high-severity wildfire. More information about this opportunity will be released in the coming months. Please look for this announcement.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT PROGRAM

At this time, it is not clear if there will be a fourth round of Community Wildfire Defense Grant funding. Once an announcement is made by the U.S. Forest Service confirming Community Wildfire Defense Grant funding, the DNRC will provide an announcement to partners. If a fourth round of funding is available, partners may apply directly to the U.S. Forest Service for this funding opportunity or may work with the DNRC on a Community Wildfire Defense Grant application.

REGIONAL GRANT SPECIALIST - CONTACT INFO

If you have questions about DNRC Stewardship Grant opportunities, please contact your regional DNRC Stewardship Grant specialist. Please visit the [DNRC Land Management Office map](#) to determine which area your project is located and then reach out to the Specialist in the project area:

CLO, NWLO, and SWLO – Ashley Juran – ashley.juran@mt.gov - 406.542.4280.

ELO, NELO, and SLO – John Moffat – john.moffat@mt.gov - 406.661.2446.