



Forestry Assistance Bureau Forest Stewardship Grants Request for Proposals

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 15, 2024



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. DNRC Forest Stewardship Grants provide funding to support a portion of the expense of implementing sustainable forest management and developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

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 Montana DNRC. This Institute is an equal opportunity provider



Funding opportunities include:

Landscape Scale
Restoration - pg. 2

Wildland Urban Interface
- pg. 3

Community Wildfire
Defense - pg. 4

Montana Forest Action
Plan - pg. 5

[TO APPLY CLICK HERE](#)



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, which occurs in the fall.

MATCH

- No match required; however, landowner or project partner contributions in the form of non-match leveraged funds are encouraged.
- 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 and Private Forestry dollars. The program supports landscape-scale projects on state, private, tribal, and municipal forest lands that address Montana Forest Action Plan priorities and leverage 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, state, or local-government. 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 WUI through outcome-driven, cross-boundary, innovative projects that align with priority areas identified in the [Montana Statewide Wildfire Risk Assessment](#).
- Qualifying projects should fall into one or more categories:
 - Reduce hazardous fuels in the WUI
 - WUI-based prevention and education
 - 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, which occurs in the fall.

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 and Private Forestry dollars. 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.



COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE GRANT PROGRAM

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLAN

PROJECTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING INTENT:

- CWPPs must collaboratively help identify community risk and resilience to wildfire, formulate a plan to reduce risk, prioritize fuel reduction efforts, and address measures to reduce structural ignitability.

GRANT AMOUNT AND MATCH:

- Budget requests should be \$250,000 or less.
- Requires a 10% match, calculated as a percentage of total grant funds requested.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE DEFENSE IMPLEMENTATION

PROJECTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING INTENT:

- Protect communities through outcome-driven, cross-boundary, innovative projects that align with priority areas identified in the [Montana Statewide Wildfire Risk Assessment](#).
- Qualifying projects should fall into one or more categories:
 - Reduce hazardous fuels on non-federal land
 - Fire adapted community prevention and education

GRANT AMOUNT AND MATCH:

- Budget requests must be \$10 million or less.
- Requires a 4:1 federal to non-federal dollars match, calculated as 25% of total grant funds requested.

BACKGROUND

The Community Wildfire Defense grant aims to fund revision or development of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP), or the implementation of projects described in a CWPP. This grant program supports the goals of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy:

- Establishing fire adapted communities
- Restoring resilient landscapes
- Fostering safe and effective response to wildland fire

The Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) Program is funded through the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act (IIJA), which will provide \$1 Billion in funding over 5 years. Funds are awarded through a competitive process. These funds are used 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

MONTANA FOREST ACTION PLAN

PROJECTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING INTENT:

- Implement cross-boundary innovative projects that align with priority areas identified in the [Montana Forest Action Plan](#), [Statewide 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

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 a combination of private, local, state, tribal, and/or federal partners, 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.



**REGIONAL GRANT SPECIALIST
CONTACT INFO**

If you have questions during the proposal development process,
please contact your DNRC Grant Specialist

For projects located in the
following Counties:
Flathead, Lake, Lincoln,
Sanders, and the Swan
River watershed of
Missoula County -

CONTACT:

Murphy McGowan
murphy.mcgowan@mt.gov

For all other locations in
Montana -

CONTACT:

Ashley Juran
ashley.juran@mt.gov
406-542-4280