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| Utah Shared Stewardship  2023 Project Proposal |

Introduction

Shared Stewardship is about investing in the right place at the right scale, collaborating across boundaries, and improving how we engage with partners. Since the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the State of Utah signed an Agreement for Shared Stewardship in May 2019, we have made substantial progress toward meeting these objectives. NRCS joined the agreement as an official partner in Utah shared stewardship with the renewal of the agreement in May of 2022, significantly expanding the reach of the framework to include treatments and partnerships on private lands. As we continue to build a culture of Shared Stewardship in Utah, we have sought to improve our decision-making process with refinements, if needed. While we have not made changes to the process compared to last year, we have added some clarification to the changes that were made last year (see below).

Application Instructions

Similar to last year, in 2023, individuals requesting statewide support for local Shared Stewardship projects must submit a project proposal to the Watershed Restoration Initiative (WRI) ***and***complete this form. This will qualify projects to receive funding through Shared Stewardship and WRI partners. Applicants can also request funding for planning (NEPA, pre- or post-decisional surveys) or implementation. Step by-step instructions for submitting a Shared Stewardship project proposal are included below:

1. Prepare Shared Stewardship and WRI proposals.
2. When submitting a proposal through WRI, under the drop-down menu labeled “funding category” select “Shared Stewardship”.
3. Attach this completed form to your WRI proposal.
4. Email a copy of this form to Grace Patrick, Utah Shared Stewardship Coordinator (gpatrick@utah.gov) and Adam Shaw, USFS Intermountain Region Utah State Liaison (adam.shaw@usda.gov).

*Note: Offices should not request separate funds from Shared Stewardship and WRI. For example, if $1.5 million dollars is needed to complete a project, do not request $400K from WRI and $1.1 million from Shared Stewardship. Rather, submit one funding request for $1.5 million.*

Ratings and Evaluations Process

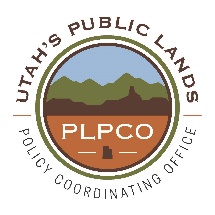
1. Concurrent with the WRI ranking and evaluation process, an interagency Shared Stewardship steering committee will evaluate all Shared Stewardship proposals using this form. *As with last year, project leads are asked to be prepared to give the Shared Stewardship steering committee a presentation (no more than 10-minutes) on each project followed by a short question and answer session. State and Forest Service employees are encouraged to participate in these presentations.*
2. Steering committee members will individually score projects on a scale of 1-25 using the questions and criteria outlined below. Once individual reviews have been completed, the entire steering committee will convene, combine or average scores, and rank projects.
3. Steering committee rankings and subsequent recommendations will be provided to the State Forester, Director of Utah’s Public Lands Policy Coordination Office, USFS Intermountain Deputy Regional Forester, and Natural Resources Conservation Service’s State Conservationist. The final decision on how funding will be allocated will be determined by these individuals.
4. Projects that do not receive funding through Shared Stewardship may still qualify for other funding sources, including WRI, or USFS Regional Priority Fuels funding.

Clarifications in the 2023 Application Process

The following clarifications have been made to the application process this year to continue encouragement to implement projects that are consistent with the national framework for Shared Stewardship, Utah’s Shared Stewardship Agreement, and Utah’s Shared Stewardship Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

1. *Project proposals must be signed by the FFSL Area Manager, the USFS Forest Supervisor, and the NRCS State Conservationist.* The goal is to encourage early engagement, shared dialogue and decision-making when establishing local priorities for Shared Stewardship (KPI #6).
2. *Additional points will be awarded to encourage cross boundary coordination.* The goal is to encourage planning and implementation of one landscape-scale, cross-boundary project on each forest in the next 3 years (KPI #6).
3. *Additional points will be awarded to projects developed through community-based convening efforts*. The goal is to encourage development of projects with local stakeholder input and increase funding for Shared Stewardship work (KPI #2). It is important to note that Shared Stewardship seeks to engage stakeholders to participate in the design, analysis, funding, and/or implementation of projects.
4. *Bonus points will be awarded to proposals supported by an analytical process.* Specifically, bonus points will be awarded to projects using science or data driven project planning and prioritization with an emphasis on long-term landscape scale objectives (KPI #3).

In addition, to the abovementioned changes, the application must specify the cost of each task and who will be doing the work. In other words, you must indicate whether the Forest Service will be responsible for implementing the task or the state. The purpose of this change is help us determine how to distribute State vs. Federal funds and ensure we are making decisions consistent with federal appropriations law.



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| **SUMMARY INFORMATION** | |
| **Project Name:** |  |
| **Project Lead(s):**  Include name, phone number, and email |  |
| **National Forest(s), District(s), FFSL Area, and Conservation District:** |  |
| **WRI Project Number:** |  |

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| **QUALIFYING QUESTIONS** | |
| **1) Is the project located in a Shared Stewardship priority landscape (top 20% at risk watersheds)?** |  |

\*In order to qualify for Shared Stewardship funds, individuals must answer “yes” to this question or provide a clear rationale for why the project will directly benefit one of the priority landscapes.

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| **PROJECT NARRATIVE** | |
| **Project Description:**  Who is proposing to do what, when, why, where, and how? What is the expected outcome? |  |

Add space to form as needed

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| **PROJECT TIMELINE (REQUIRED FOR MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS)** | | | |
| **Project Phase** | **Needed Funding** | **Expected Output**  (*# of acres, treatment method/type)* | **Year/Month** |
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\*Delete or add rows as needed

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| **RATINGS QUESTIONS** | |
| 1. **How will this project advance the goals of protecting communities and water from the threat of unwanted fire? These are different objectives than WRI proposals; please explain how the project is specifically meeting shared stewardship objectives.**   Include specific information regarding the location of the project in relationship to values-at-risk and how the project will reduce hazardous fuels or mitigate wildfire risk. Identify the number of acres and percent of the project located in priority watersheds.Bonus points will be awarded to projects utilizing science or data driven project planning with an emphasis on long-term landscape scale objectives.  ***Maximum of 10 points with 2 bonus points possible*** |  |
| 1. **How does this project focus on outcomes at the appropriate scale?**   Higher points will generally be awarded to projects planned at the landscape-scale. However, smaller projects will be considered that are designed to achieve specific social or economic objectives or lead to landscape-scale ecological outcomes.  ***Maximum 5 points possible*** |  |
| 1. **How are government entities, tribes, non-governmental partners or others involved in developing the project?**   Describe partners involvement in the planning, design and implementation of the project. What resources are partnerships contributing to the project? If partners are not directly involved in developing the project, have they expressed interest/support? Points will be awarded to projects that emphasize shared dialogue, shared decision making, shared priorities, and shared resources. It is encouraged to provide current letters of support from these partners and attach them to the application.  ***Maximum of 5 points possible*** |  |
| 1. **Does the project include a cross-boundary component?**   Is this project part of a strategy that addresses shared priorities across boundaries? Is complimentary work being completed on adjacent state or private land? Have willing landowners been included in discussions? If work is occurring on one landownership type, has this work been identified as a joint priority by adjacent landowners?  ***Maximum of 3 points possible*** |  |

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| **COMPLEMENTARY PROJECTS (ALL-LANDS)** | |
| **Additional project name:** |  |
| **Responsible agency/ partner/ landowner:** |  |
| **Project description:**  Include information such as objectives, acres, expected outcomes |  |

\* *This list should include projects occurring on Forest Service and adjacent federal, state, and private lands. Delete or add rows as needed for additional projects.*

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| **BUDGET** | | | | |
| **Task** | **Total** | **Work**  **to be**  **Completed by State** | **Work**  **to be Completed by USFS** | **Notes** |
| NEPA | $ | $ | $ |  |
| Clearances or  Pre-Work | $ | $ | $ |  |
| Personnel/labor | $ | $ | $ |  |
| Travel | $ | $ | $ |  |
| Equipment | $ | $ | $ |  |
| Supplies | $ | $ | $ |  |
| Contractual | $ | $ | $ |  |
| Other | $ | $ | $ |  |
| **Total** | $ | $ | $ |  |

\*Forests may request NEPA and pre-project funding, implementation funding, or both.

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**Forest Supervisor Signature**

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**FFSL Area Manager**

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**NRCS State Conservationist**