



Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative Project Development GRANT APPLICATION

May 2018

Goal and Priorities of Grant Program

The overarching goal of this grant program is to increase the number, acreage, and complexity of collaboratively planned restoration projects on federal lands in Oregon. Stemming from that goal, this grant solicitation will focus on strengthening forest collaborative organizations and advancing collaborative Zones of Agreement for restoration that include vegetation management on either USFS or BLM-managed lands.

Strong, capable collaborative organizations are needed to effectively develop agreements that are defensible, durable, and representative of public desires for federal forest lands. Collaboration is also increasingly required to utilize tools that can advance the pace, scale and quality of federal forest restoration, such as stewardship contracting and some expedited NEPA authorities. The first priority of this grant solicitation will be to invest in Collaborative Governance projects to ensure that Oregon's forest collaborative organizations are robust and can effectively develop agreements and use all the tools available to them. Additionally, in the future, documentation of formal organizational structure will be required to apply for larger size Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative Project Development Grants. Eligible projects will develop or update formal organizational structure elements for forest collaboratives in Oregon.

Development and expansion of Zones of Agreement (ZOA) by forest collaboratives has reduced conflict around forest management and allowed active restoration on tens of thousands of acres of federal forest to move forward in Oregon. The second priority of this grant solicitation will be to advance collaborative Zones of Agreement (ZOA). In different regions of Oregon, different actions are needed to advance ZOA. Eligible projects may develop and/or expand ZOA through collaborative dialogue; communicate ZOA to a broader group of stakeholders or the public; improve the implementation of ZOA; monitor and learn from the implementation of ZOA; or advance ZOA in other ways specified by the applicant. Proposals that identify an all-lands restoration approach will be given priority consideration during review.

Available Funding and Funding Priorities

There is \$200,000 available for both Collaborative Governance (approximately \$120,000) and Zones of Agreement (approximately \$80,000) applications for this cycle. Collaborative Governance applications are the ***first priority in order to ensure that Oregon's forest collaborative organizations are robust and can effectively develop agreements and use all the tools available to them.***

1. OWEB requested amount cannot exceed:
 - a. Collaborative Governance proposal: \$15,000
 - b. Zones of Agreement proposal: \$35,000.

Application Eligibility Criteria

Eligible Applicants

This solicitation is open to local collaborative groups engaged in forest restoration and/or stewardship on federal forests in Oregon (forests managed by the USFS or BLM). Eligible grantees must have 501(c)3 status or a signed agreement with an eligible fiscal sponsor. This can be a non-profit community based organization, unit of local government or Tribal government. Applicants must be based in Oregon.

Grantees may have a maximum of one Zones of Agreement grant and one Collaborative Governance grant open **at a time**. Applicants with a current, open, Zones of Agreement grant can apply for a new Zones of Agreement grant; however, if awarded, a new grant agreement will not be released, and expenses cannot be incurred, until the previous grant has been closed. **Successful applicants will have 6 months from the funding decision to wrap-up any current open grants and execute the new grant agreement. Applicants should be clear in their timeline for proposed activities that work will not begin until the previous grant has been closed.** These guidelines will apply to Collaborative Governance grants in the future as well.

Collaborative Governance Funding

1. Collaborative groups that have operated for at least 6 months who do not yet have formal organizational structure documentation may apply to develop or formalize charters, operating guidelines, declarations of cooperation, strategic plans, 501(c)3 incorporation documents, stakeholder engagement strategies, or similar organizational structural document deliverables
2. Collaborative groups that already have formal organizational structure and have operated for at least six months may apply to update charters, operating guidelines, declarations of cooperation, strategic plans, 501(c)3 incorporation documents, stakeholder engagement strategies, or similar organizational structural document deliverables

Zones of Agreement Funding

Collaboratives who wish to apply should demonstrate that they have established agreements and/or guidelines on membership, leadership structure, decision-making procedures, and their mission or shared purpose. These elements of organizational structure demonstrate baseline capacity to sustain collaborative dialogue among diverse perspectives. Charters, operating guidelines, declarations of cooperation, or other forms of documentation should be submitted at the time of application.

Applying for both types of Grants

Established collaborative groups that already have formal organizational structure may seek both a Collaborative Governance grant to update their organizational structure and a Zones of Agreement grant to advance Zones of Agreement. This type of collaborative group can still only have a maximum of one of each type of grant open at a time. If seeking both types of grants in this funding cycle, please fill out Section 3A and IIIB of the application. Groups that already have adequate formal organizational structure are not required to apply for Collaborative Governance grants. Groups that do not yet have formal organizational structure may only apply for Collaborative Governance funding.

Deliverable and Eligible Activities

Collaborative Governance Funding

The intent of this grant offering is to provide financial support to build, formalize, or update organizational structure elements that will enhance the effectiveness of forest collaboratives. **Each grant application must identify the organizational structure elements to be developed, formalized, or updated as the primary deliverable for the grant activities.** Collaborative applicants should describe how the organizational structure elements will support or enable work to increase the pace, scale, and quality of local restoration efforts.

Eligible activities include:

- Development, updating, or formalization of statements of shared purpose, such as Mission or Vision statements, Declarations of Commitment, etc.
- Development or updating of Strategic Plans or Work Plans to focus and guide the activities of the collaborative in coming years

- Development, updating, or formalization of operating guidelines for a collaborative, such as Charters, Operations Manuals, etc.
- Delineation or updating of a transparent and inclusive process to develop and deliver formal (written) input and/or recommendations about forest restoration activities to the Forest Service or BLM.
- 501(c)3 incorporation for a collaborative
- Development or updating of a Participant/Stakeholder Engagement Strategy, which assesses current and desired collaborative stakeholder participation; identified priorities for inclusion; and formulates strategies for engagement.

Zones of Agreement Funding

The intent of this grant offering is to provide financial support to advance **Zones of Agreement for project-level restoration work on National Forest and/or BLM lands**. Zones of Agreement (ZOA) can be built for specific project areas (ie. NEPA planning areas), Forest Plan allocation units (ie. Designated Old Growth), forest types (ie. Dry mixed conifer) and/or ecological function (ie. riparian areas). **Each grant application must identify the Zone of Agreement to be developed as the primary deliverable for the grant activities.**

Collaborative applicants should describe how advancing the ZOA contributes to an increased pace, scale and quality of local restoration efforts. Examples of the detail suggested for ZOAs include (these are not provided as a menu only as an example of the level of detail expected at the outset of this work):

- Refinement of existing ZOA for dry forest types
- Restoration treatments in riparian areas or Restoration treatments in oak woodlands
- Agreement on the Road 13 Project
- Commercial vegetation removal treatments in moist, mixed conifer stands
- Restoration priorities (issues and/or planning areas) for the Middle Fork Ranger District
- Aspen restoration principles for the Malheur National Forest
- Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy

Other grant deliverables will include social, economic and ecological goals defined by each collaborative applicant.

Eligible activities include:

- Meeting planning and/or facilitation either contracted or staffed in-house related to specific on-the-ground projects or issues.
- Meeting and field tour expenses, including expenses for guest speaker presentations.
- Communication activities including public outreach and stakeholder recruitment, direct mailing, meeting notices, and use of social media and traditional media outreach.
- Ecological, economic and social monitoring and evaluation of activities including collection of data necessary to demonstrate ecological, economic or social impacts of the project. Applicants should detail how monitoring activities funded will facilitate the practice of adaptive management and influence future project design.
- Travel expenses to attend regional or statewide meetings of multiple collaboratives (i.e., coalition of collaboratives or CFLR Network meetings). Applicants must show the connection between attendance at these meetings with the project for which grant activities are proposed to advance. ***Note: All travel expenses should be calculated using State per-diem rates.**

- Developing formal organizational structure and documentation for a collaborative that will enable groups to better sustain collaborative dialogue amount diverse perspectives and develop and advance collaborative Zones of Agreement.

Eligible Geography (applicable for both Collaborative Governance and Zones of Agreement Applicants)

The eligible geography for this grant program is for collaboration on **National Forests and BLM-managed forests statewide**. Proposals should specify the project geography applicable to the proposed work, identify the forest ecosystems addressed within the proposed scope of work, and justify the proposed work to restore forest ecosystems.

General Instructions

The application contains the questions and the forms to be completed. OWEB is seeking an overview of the project in the first two sections only. Starting with **Section 3**, the application is broken into two parts. **Section 3A** is for applicants seeking funding for Collaborative Governance projects, **Section 3B** is for applicants seeking funding to advance collaborative Zones of Agreement. The questions in **Section 3** request your full explanation of project specifics. Answer each set of questions related to the activity proposed. If any of the information requested on the application form cannot be supplied, be sure to include an explanation.

1. Complete All Sections including the budget.
2. Include the required attachments.
3. Read and sign the application.
4. Please follow these instructions for PDF application submittal, paper applications will not be accepted.
 - Attach PDF application as **one document**, using the current application posted online
 - Pages with signatures should be a scan of the originals

Required Attachments: (applicants seeking Collaborative Governance funding may not have all of the required attachments; please attach any of the documents your collaborative has already developed.)

1. Documentation to satisfy **eligibility criteria**, including:
 5. 501(c)3 status or signed agreement with fiscal sponsor
 6. Formal organization structure documentation explaining membership, leadership structure, decision-making procedures, and mission or shared purpose for the collaborative group
2. A **letter of support** from the appropriate Line Officer for the USFS or BLM. Applicant may provide up to 2 additional letters of support from key partners and technical service providers. Be sure the letters provide sufficient detail on the partner's proposed contributions (cash and in-kind).
3. **Budget**. The budget document can be found here:
<https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/fiscal/nologin.aspx>. Refer to current Budget Categories Definitions and Policy Document for guidance, <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/manage-grant/Pages/payments-budget.aspx>.
4. Map.

Submission of Grant Applications

Email PDF of application and all attachments as one document to: oweb.grantapp@oregon.gov. If submitting more than one application, send each application as one PDF by separate email.

Application Deadline

Applications must be received by **5 pm, July 2, 2018**.