Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund (Round I) February 2021

Open Space Institute

Prior to applying, please visit the Focus Area Screening Tool to assess whether your project lies in an Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund Focus Area and review the Fund details on OSI's website, including Grant Fund Criteria and Definitions and Data Guide.

Organizational Information

Type of Organization*

Choices
Land Trust
Other Non-Profit
Tribal Government
Municipality

Organization's Founding Date and Mission Statement*

Please tell us when your organization was founded and its mission statement.

Character Limit: 750

Land Trust Alliance Accreditation - for Land Trust's Only

Is your organization accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission?

Choices
Yes
No
Not Applicable

For Land Trust's NOT Accredited

If your land trust is not accredited, please describe the plan and timetable for becoming accredited as approved by your Board of Directors.

Strong preference is given to accredited land trusts and those with a plan to be accredited. If your organization does not plan to pursue accreditation, please contact OSI Field Staff prior to completing this application.

Character Limit: 300

Project Overview

Note key terms used throughout this application form:
- **Subject Property**: parcel(s) for which you are requesting funds.
- **Match Property**: parcel(s) that are eligible to be used as match. Match eligibility is described [HERE](#).
- **Project**: all Subject and Match Properties that are the included in this application.
- **Project Area**: the larger geographic area and conservation plan, if any, to which the Project is related.

**Date of Application**
*Character Limit: 10*

**Total Amount Requested**
*Character Limit: 20*

**Geographic Area**
State in which the majority of the Subject Property is located in.

**Choices**
- Alabama
- Georgia
- Maine
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- New York
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- Tennessee
- Vermont

**Total Subject Property Acreage**
Subject Property includes parcel(s) for which you are requesting an OSI grant.
*Character Limit: 20*

**Subject Property Acreage to be Acquired in Fee**
If there are no acres in fee, enter zero.
*Character Limit: 20*

**Subject Property Acreage to be Placed Under Conservation Easement**
If there are no acres in conservation easement, enter zero.
*Character Limit: 20*

**Total Match Property Acreage**
If there are no match properties, enter zero.
*Character Limit: 20*
**Match Property Acreage to be Acquired in Fee**
If there are no acres in fee or no match properties, enter zero.
*Character Limit: 20*

**Match Property Acreage to be Placed Under Conservation Easement**
If there are no acres in conservation easement or no match properties, enter zero.
*Character Limit: 20*

**Total Project Acreage**
Enter the total acreage of all Subject and Match Properties combined. If there are no match properties, this number is the same as Subject Property Acreage.
*Character Limit: 20*

**Estimated Project Completion Date**
*Character Limit: 10*

**Project Budget Form**
Download the project budget [HERE](#).
Once complete, upload below.
*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Budget Narrative**
*Referring to your Budget Form, address each of the following:*
1. Amount and sources of funds secured. Identify which funding sources are committed and which still require approval;
2. Plans for raising outstanding funds; and
3. Proposed use of OSI grant funds.
*Character Limit: 1000*

**Total Eligible Project Cost**
Note: Please use the same number included in the budget form.
*Character Limit: 20*

**Fair Market Value of Subject Property**
Enter estimated Fair Market Value of Subject Property(ies) to be acquired in fee and/or conservation easement.
*Character Limit: 20*

**Fair Market Value of Match Property**
Enter estimated Fair Market Value of Match Property(ies) to be acquired in fee and/or conservation easement.
If there are no match properties, enter zero.
Total Fair Market Value of Properties*
Enter the combined fair market value of all subject and match properties.

Project Details

Project Location*
Provide names of town(s), county(ies), and state(s) your project is located within.

Project Summary*
Provide a concise overview of the Project that addresses the following:

1. The project’s contribution to addressing climate change, based on terrestrial resilience and carbon storage and sequestration.
2. Description of the project’s land cover, including percent forest cover, any water bodies, and non-natural features.
3. Proposed transaction structure,
4. Acquisition partners and roles, and
5. Proposed stewardship goals and plans.

Focus Area Location*
Your project must lie partly or wholly within one of the Fund’s Focus Areas to be eligible. Please use the Focus Area Screening Tool to assess whether your project lies in a focus area. Indicate the Focus Area in which your project is located.

Choices
Cradle of Southern Appalachia: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and Tennessee
Middle-Atlantic: New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York
Northern Appalachians: Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont

Project Description*
Describe the Property’s natural and man-made features. Be specific and cite inventories and studies, if available. Please describe each of the following:

1. Topography and landforms - for example ridges, outcrops, cliffs, caves and water features (such as rivers, lakes, streams and vernal pools);
2. Human impacts - such as roads, houses, farmland, timber harvests, bridges or culverts;
3. Dominant vegetation types and natural communities and their current conditions including any available information on forest age and health; and
4. Information on animal and plant species known to occur on the Project, including information on any rare or unusual species.

*Character Limit: 2000

To answer the following questions about Resilience and Forest Carbon you will use The Nature Conservancy’s online mapping tool and the instructions in OSI’s the Definitions and Data Guide.

**Resilience***

Follow the instructions in the Definitions and Data Guide to determine the overall resilience of the project.

**Choices**

Far Above Average
Above Average
Slightly Above Average
Average
Slightly Below Average
Below Average
Far Below Average

**Resilience Characteristics***

Based on the data and your knowledge of the parcel(s), describe what makes the Project resilient to climate change - such as landforms, geology, scale and connectedness.

*Character Limit: 1500

**Geophysical Settings***

1. Follow the instructions in the Definitions and Data guide to determine the type and acreage of each Geophysical Setting. Indicate if any geophysical settings are listed in the "Underrepresented Setting" table included in the Definition and Data Guide.

*Character Limit: 400

2. If available, provide additional information that confirms or conflicts with the geophysical setting assigned by the Resilient Lands Mapping Tool.

For example, do the plant and animal communities on the property have characteristics that indicate the underlying geology?

We particularly appreciate confirmation of settings identified by OSI as "Underrepresented".

*Character Limit: 1000

**Forest Carbon: Forest Ecosystem Carbon***

Follow the instructions in the Definitions and Data Guide to determine the project’s estimated “Total Forest Ecosystem Carbon” and “Average Forest Ecosystem Carbon” for 2010 and for 2050.
**Forest Carbon: Comparison to Focus Area Average**
Follow the instructions in the Definitions and Data Guide to determine if the 2050 carbon storage per acre values for your project are within, below, or above the average for the focus area.

**Forest Carbon: Changes in Forest Cover**
Describe any known or expected changes in forest cover between 2010 and when the property is protected, such as planned timber harvest.

**Landscape Context**
*Please address each question:*

1. Describe the type of landscape within which the Project lies (for example: forested, suburban, and/or agricultural).
2. Is the Project near other protected land? If so, describe how the Project is or can be connected to conserved lands.
3. Is the Project part of a plan to conserve a larger landscape? If so, describe the plan and your Project's role in the plan.

**Urgency and Risk**
*Explain each of the following for each Subject parcel:*

1. Explain who owns the property and if they are an individual, family, estate, corporation or another entity.
2. What is the type and degree of threat to the land, including risk of development and/or carbon loss due to forest conversion? Provide any relevant evidence including real estate trends in the region, whether the land is on the market, development potential of the land, and current zoning.
3. Without protection, what is the mostly likely outcome for the Subject Properties? Would the forest carbon likely be lost in this scenario due to forest management or development?

**Transaction Status and Timing**
*For each Project parcel (subject and match), describe the status of the transaction:*

1. What is the status of negotiations? Is there a purchase agreement in place? Will this be a phased transaction or installment sale?
2. Status and timing for completion of all due diligence items (e.g. appraisal, survey, title, environmental assessment, mortgage subordination for easement).

3. Any other actions required prior to closing, such as building demolition, hazardous waste, remediation or dam safety protection.

**Character Limit: 1000**

**Land Stewardship**

*Address each of the following questions for each parcel:*

1. How is the land currently used and managed? Is the forest actively managed for timber?

2. What entity will own the land purchased in fee, and/or what entity will hold and monitor the conservation easement? Describe the experience these organizations have in owning conservation land and/or holding conservation easements.

3. Who will be responsible for the land’s stewardship, if different from the landowner?

4. What are the future goals for land stewardship? Specifically, how will the landowner(s) ensure long-term resilience, forest health and active or passive management that will increase carbon sequestration?

5. Describe your plans for developing a property stewardship plan.

6. Are you aware of any risks to forest health such as fire, insects or disease? Will your planned stewardship address these risks to carbon loss?

**Character Limit: 3000**

**Additional Project Benefits**

Please tell us about any other benefits that will arise from your project, such as community access, protection of drinking water or flood hazard mitigation.

**Character Limit: 1000**

**Land Equity**

In the United States, characteristics such as income, race, and ethnic identity have a disproportionate impact on access to benefits from nature. As conservation groups begin to address these inequities, we recognize that organizations are at different stages of their work toward greater equity and inclusivity. Regardless of where you are in the process, we appreciate your reflection on these questions.

*Note that OSI will not use your answers to evaluate your project.*

**Organizational Equity**

Has your organization begun to address the need for equity, inclusion, and justice in conservation?
**Choices**
Yes
No

If Yes, describe one or two promising steps and one or two things that are most challenging.

Note: If your organization has a current equity plan, feel free to upload or provide a link to the plan instead of answering this question.
*Character Limit: 1000 | File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Partner and Community Benefits**
Please list your partners on this project and what communities they represent. Indicate if any of your partners represent communities that have historically been excluded from equal access to nature’s benefits.
*Character Limit: 1000*

Briefly describe who will benefit from the land conservation activities of your project and how they will benefit, such as recreational access, cultural uses, wildlife, and/or drinking water. Indicate if any of these beneficiaries include members of communities that have historically been excluded from equal access to nature’s benefits.*
*Character Limit: 1000*

If these benefits include helping to protect people from the impacts of climate change, please describe (e.g. flood hazard reduction, heat island reduction, or in other ways).*
*Character Limit: 1000*

**Land Connection**
Are you aware of which Indigenous, Black, or other communities of color historically lived on and were connected to this land?

**Choices**
Yes
No

If Yes, please describe these communities.
*Character Limit: 750*

Have you reached out to these peoples or their descendants about how this project might impact them?

**Choices**
Yes
No

Are there specific ways that this project reconnects those peoples or their descendants to the land?
Choices
Yes
No

If yes, please describe this outreach and how their responses have impacted the project’s evolution or any future plans.

*Character Limit: 1000

Supporting Project Materials
Upload the following documents. Total proposal file size is limited to 25 MB. Keep file size to the minimum file size required for each upload. If more file space is required, please contact Yasemin Unal-Rodriguez at yunal-rodriguez@osiny.org.

Conservation Easement
If your Project includes a Conservation Easement, upload a copy of the draft document if available. Note OSI’s Conservation Easement Standards HERE.

*File Size Limit: 2 MB

Landscape Context Map
Upload a map with an aerial photo as a base that shows where the project is located relative to other protected land. Include the project parcel and match parcels (if applicable) and best available data of protected lands.

*File Size Limit: 3 MB

Upload two to three high-quality digital photos of the Project. Label photos with project name and note if Subject or Match Property.

Photo 1*

*File Size Limit: 3 MB

Photo 2*

*File Size Limit: 3 MB

Photo 3

*File Size Limit: 3 MB

Shapefiles*
Provide shapefiles for all Project parcels in a compressed zip folder. Note which parcels are Subject and which are Match. Label the folder with land trust and project name. For example: "(Your Land Trust) Burnt Mountain.zip". Do not send shapefiles of parcels that are not the subject of this application.
Organizational Budget*
Upload a copy of your organization's current year budget.

File Size Limit: 5 MB

File Size Limit: 1 MB