



OSI Resilient Landscape Initiative Frequently Asked Questions

Science and Data

What do terms like “resilience,” “landscape diversity” & “geophysical settings” mean?

OSI’s [Definitions and Map Guide](#) (available on [OSI’s website](#)) provides an overview of these and other concepts. If you still have questions about these terms, feel free to contact the OSI Field Coordinator for your region (*see list below*).

Which TNC data should I use to evaluate and map my project?

TNC has new uniform resilience data that spans from Florida to Canada’s Gaspé Peninsula. The easiest way to access this information is through the [TNC Resilience Landscape Mapping Tool](#). OSI’s [Definitions and Map Guide](#) provides detailed instruction on how to use this information and create maps using the online tool.

Why is the resilience score of my project low?

A particular site may score below average for resilience because of 1) a generally low resilience score, or 2) a resilience score that is low when *compared* to similarly situated places.

Resilience is a measure of two components: Landscape Diversity (sometimes called “Complexity”) and Local Connectedness. If either or both of these components scores are low, the site may not score above average for resilience.

In addition, the resilience score of a site is ranked *relative* to all other examples of the same Geophysical Setting (elevation & geology combined) within the same ecoregion. For some sites this relative ranking can result in a higher score, and for others it could result in a lower score. Please see the [Definitions and Map Guide](#) for more information on this topic.

What if field work or other data indicate that my project includes geology types not reflected in the Geophysical Settings data?

The Geophysical Settings data created by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is based on the best available region-wide data and reflects broad categories of geology. If you believe that important information about the type of geology within your project is not reflected in the data, please include that information in your proposal. A field assessment is the most reliable basis for this information, but is not required for your application.

Project Eligibility

Is a project eligible if it falls entirely outside the border of OSI’s Resilient Landscape

Fund Focus Areas but the data indicates the property is above average for resilience?

Probably not. Although there are many resilient areas outside of OSI's resilient focus areas, OSI is focusing funding within selected regions. However, if your project lies just outside the boundary please contact the OSI Field Coordinator for your region to discuss eligibility.

If my project falls within one of OSI Resilient Focus Areas, but the majority of the project is not above average for resilience, can I still apply?

Maybe. If your project **abuts** a resilient area **and** exhibits the characteristics of resilience as detailed in OSI's [Definitions and Map Guide](#), please contact the OSI Field Coordinator for your region (*see Contacts below*). Be prepared to provide a map and supporting resource information so that we can efficiently assess eligibility.

Is farmland eligible?

Not usually. The primary purpose of this fund is to conserve land that will provide viable wildlife habitat and, in many cases land that is converted out of natural land cover would not meet this criteria. For example, a conservation easement that allows forest to be converted to crops (which would be appropriate for an agricultural easement) would not be sufficient to meet the Fund criteria.

Is active forest management allowed?

Usually. In many cases, forests can be actively managed and still meet the purposes of the Fund. However, the *primary purpose* of forest management must be maintenance of habitat for all native species and management must not be so intensive that it degrades habitat. Monocultures, planting of non-native species and degradation of water quality or soils are not allowed. OSI staff will review conservation easement language or forest management plan language to provide guidance. Please refer to OSI's conservation easement and land stewardship standards on our website.

Project Structure & Funding

Can a property or easement acquired by a land trust with OSI funds be transferred to a government entity?

Yes. As long as the property will be permanently protected and managed by an agency whose mission is consistent with the goals of the Fund and with the resources and expertise to manage the land appropriately.

Can a property conserved by another party (land trust or government agency) count as match?

Probably. The match property must meet the Fund criteria and the applicant must demonstrate that the match property is part of the same coordinated, conservation effort as the subject property.

Can OSI grant funds be used for associated acquisition costs?

OSI gives strong preference to funding land protection directly but if the applicant makes the case that funding out-of-pocket acquisition costs is critical to success, we will consider that request. Please see the website for eligible project expenses.

In what cases might OSI waive the 5:1 match requirement?

In exceptional cases, we will consider a smaller match for projects with 1) outstanding resource and resilience values, 2) clear opportunity to teach others about the importance of climate resilience, and 3) demonstration that the applicant has exhausted other funding opportunities.

Can a grant from another OSI fund be used to match a Resilient Landscape Initiative Grant?

Possibly, depending on the restrictions, sources, and eligibility requirements associated with each fund. For instance, where there is geographic overlap, OSI's Southern Cumberland Land Protection Fund and the Southeast Resilient Landscapes Fund can match each other. Consult with OSI on specific questions after checking eligibility requirements for the relevant funds.

Application Process

How does the rolling application process for the Northeast Resilient Landscapes Fund work?

Applicants can apply to the Northeast Resilient Landscape Fund at any time. OSI's staff and Advisory Committee will consider proposals every four to five months, depending on the volume of the applications received. Applicants are welcome to contact OSI staff (*see contact list below*) for details on grant review timing.

Can an organization submit grant proposals for more than one project?

Yes. Applicants can apply for more than one project; however grant resources are limited so applicants should submit only strong projects that will score well in all categories.

I have a great project but it will not close within OSI's 18-month timeframe. Should I still apply?

No. Please do not apply unless your project is highly likely to close within 18 months of application.

OSI Field Coordinators

Southeast & Central Appalachians: Joel Houser (jhouser@osiny.org)

New England: Jennifer Melville (jmelville@osiny.org)

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