



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# USDA Forest Service Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program

COMMUNITY FOREST



PROGRAM

## Request for Applications

## Informational Webinar

## March 7, 2023

# Webinar Logistics

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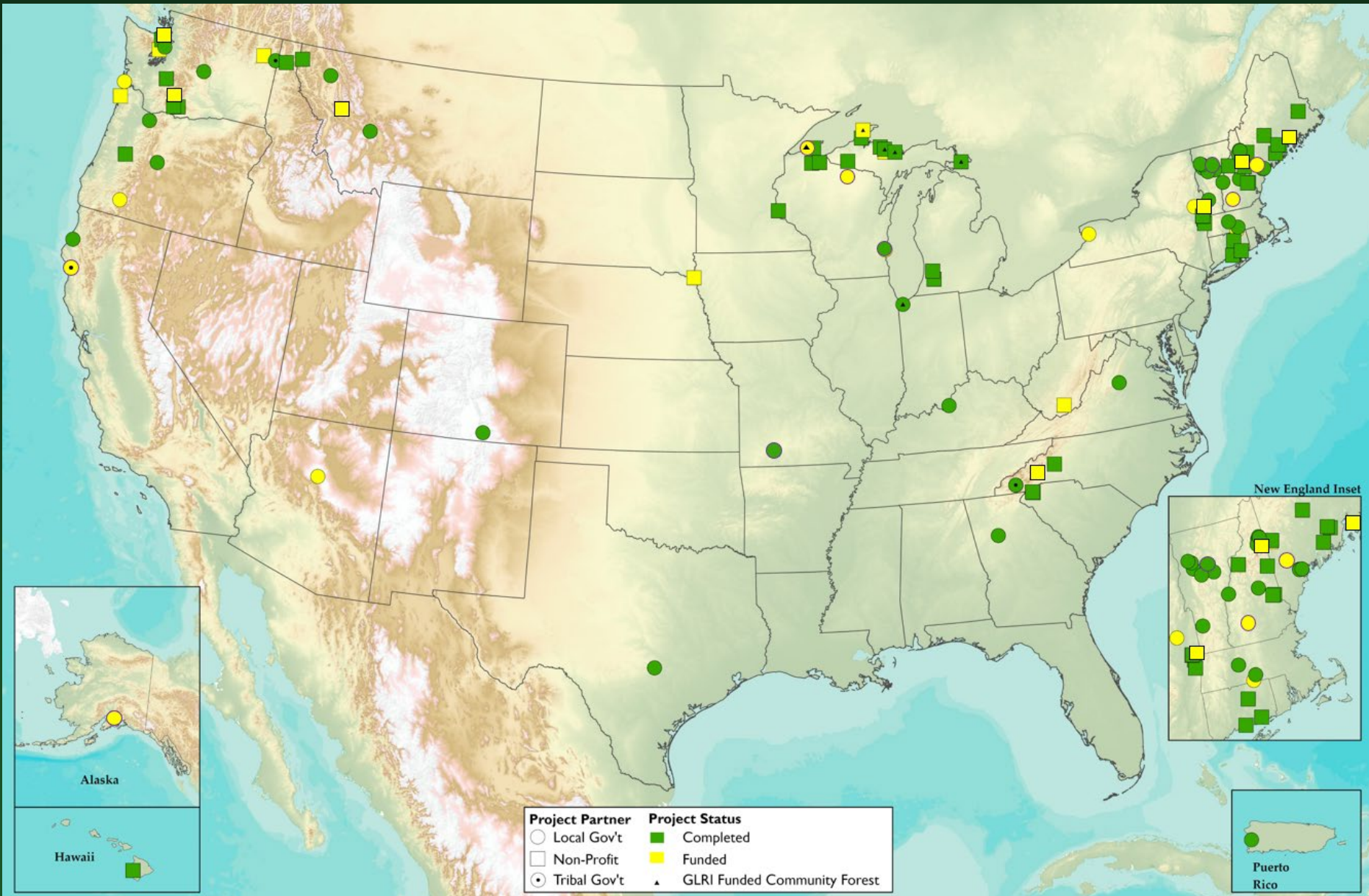
- This webinar will be recorded
- Please mute your mic during presentations
- Please use the chat for questions and comments during presentations
- Time for verbal questions at the end

# Webinar agenda

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- Program overview
- Eligibility
- Public benefits
- Funding/cost share
- How to apply
- Project scoring
- Project timelines
- Community Forest Program priorities
- Common questions & communication
- Questions

# CFP Projects Across the Country



# Community Forest Program (CFP) Accomplishments

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- 64 projects
  - 28,140 acres
  - \$78.2 Million total value
  - \$23.3 Million from CFP
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- 24 currently funded and in progress

# Community Forest Program (CFP)

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- Purpose
- History
- Implemented at the local level
- Projects are for full acquisition, **not** conservation easement purchases
- Projects selected through a Nationally competitive process

# Community Forest Program Website

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- <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest>

Lots of useful reference material:

- Most recent Request for applications
- Regional Contacts
- CFP Final Revised Rule (April 2021)
- CFP Road Map (reference document for all stages of project)
- Scoring Guidance (January 2023)
- Application Guidance
- Map Guidance
- State Forester Contacts
- Frequently Asked Questions (January 2023)

# Eligible Land

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Private forest lands that:

- 1) At least 75% forested;
- 2) At least 5 acres in size;
- 3) Are threatened by conversion to nonforest uses;
- 4) Are not lands held in trust by the United States;
- 5) If acquired by an eligible entity, can provide defined community benefits under the CFP and allow public access.



# Eligible Entities

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- **Local governments**
  - Any municipal government, county government, or other local government with jurisdiction over local land use decisions.
- **Indian tribes**
  - Federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.
- **Qualified nonprofit organizations**
  - An organization that is described in Section 170(h)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and operates in accordance with one or more of the conservation purposes.

# Public Benefits

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- Economic
- Educational
- Environmental
- Recreational
- Community Involvement

# Acquisition Requirements

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- CFP projects are for land acquisition not conservation easements or other partial interests
- Record with the Deed a Notice of Grant requirement
  - Acquired with CFP funds
  - Property description or reference to location in the deed
  - Grant recipient info
  - Purpose of the CFP
  - Grant award number
  - Will be managed according to Community Forest Plan and CFP purposes
  - Limitations on transfers of land or interests
  - Funds reversion language

# CFP Funding

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The program is funded through general appropriations

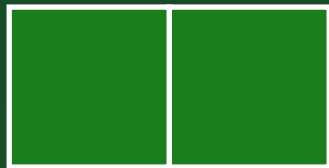
For CFP 2023 \$6,000,000 is available for projects and State and Tribal technical assistance on funded projects and if requested by the State or Tribe

The maximum request is \$600,000 for a project.

# CFP Funding

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- CFP can provide up to 50% of the total allowable project costs
- The other 50% must be from non-federal sources



50%  
CFP



50%  
Non-Federal

# CFP funds allowable costs

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- Allowable project and cost share costs will include the purchase price and the following transactional costs associated with the acquisition:
  - (1) Appraisals and appraisal reviews; (Yellow Book)
  - (2) Land surveys;
  - (3) Legal and closing costs;
  - (4) Development of the Community Forest Plan; and
  - (5) Title examination.

# How to apply

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- Up to 8 pages to describing:
  - project
  - public benefits
  - community involvement
  - threat to conversion
  - strategic contribution and connection
  - Additional application requirements in the CFP Rule and the Request for Applications
- 2 full page (8.5 x 11) maps
- Any documentation necessary to confirm applicant is an eligible entity

# How Projects are Scored

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- 2023 Scoring Guidance posted on the National CFP Website
- 20 points for the public benefits the proposed Community Forest will provide. (Economic, Educational, Environmental and Recreational)
- 10 points for Public Participation/Community Involvement
  - A score of 10 is reserved for projects that show broad stakeholder engagement including underrepresented groups and that is supported by data and/or specific examples
- 5 points for Strategic Contribution and Connection
- 5 points on likelihood of conversion to a non-forest use



# CFP Application Timeline

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- RFA for is published in Federal Register
- Applications due to State Forester or Tribal Equivalent
- State/Tribe submits ALL applications to Forest Service Regional Manager
- Regional Manager Reviews then sends to National Team to Review, Score and Rank
- If a project is funded the goal is to complete the project in 2 years or less

# Community Forest Program Priorities

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- Public access (program requirement)
- Community input & involvement
- Community values
- Community benefit beyond acres protected

# Common questions & communication

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- When is the soonest a partner would be able to acquire property if awarded funding in 2023?
- If this isn't a conservation easement program, is there specific language needed in the deed upon acquisition?
- How many applications are there typically in a year?  
What are the chances of receiving funding?
- Are there tips to increase funding chances?
- If I have additional questions, where can I submit them?

# CFP contacts by Forest Service Region

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Northern & Intermountain Regions (ID, MT, NV, UT, ND)

Kris Tempel, 406-210-1412 [kris.tempel@usda.gov](mailto:kris.tempel@usda.gov)

Rocky Mountain Region (CO, KS, NE, WY, SD)

Todd Gardiner, 970-210-9103 [todd.gardiner@usda.gov](mailto:todd.gardiner@usda.gov)

Southwestern Region (AZ, NM)

Laura Moser, 928-607-6040 [laura.moser@usda.gov](mailto:laura.moser@usda.gov)

Pacific Southwest Region (CA, HI & Pacific Island Territories)

Dana Walsh, CA 530-450-5555 [dana.walsh@usda.gov](mailto:dana.walsh@usda.gov)

Katie Friday, HI 808-854-2620 [kathleen.friday@usda.gov](mailto:kathleen.friday@usda.gov)

# CFP contacts by Forest Service Region

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Pacific Northwest & Alaska Regions (OR, WA, AK)

Candice Polisky, 971.710.2346 [candice.polisky@usda.gov](mailto:candice.polisky@usda.gov)

Southern Region (AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA)

Susan Granbery, 770-883-8925 [susan.granbery@usda.gov](mailto:susan.granbery@usda.gov)

Eastern Region (CT, DC, DE, IA, IL, IN, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VT, WI, WV)

Neal Bungard, 603-833-3287 [neal.bungard@usda.gov](mailto:neal.bungard@usda.gov)

International Institute of Tropical Forestry (PR, USVI)

Magaly Figueroa, 787-309-9565  
[magaly.figueroa@usda.gov](mailto:magaly.figueroa@usda.gov)