IFNF Team

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Today’s webinar

- Recorded; posted at www.ifnfgrants.org
- Chat Box for ???
- Email ??? to jalanlerner@gmail.com
- We want to talk with you!
IFNF Program

The Innovative Finance for National Forests (IFNF) grant program supports the development and implementation of innovative finance models that leverage private and public capital other than US Forest Service (USFS) appropriations to support the resilience of the National Forest System (NFS).
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Why IFNF?

- Catastrophic wildfire
- Backlog of deferred maintenance
- Reliable water supply

New approaches to funding and financing land management
Accelerated pace of innovation
Networks of partners to deliver solutions
IFNF Program Goals

- Leverage private and public capital to support agency priorities.
- Deliver measurable social, ecological, and financial outcomes to multiple stakeholders.
- Demonstrate solutions that promise improved financial sustainability for land management.
- Chart a path to scale in addressing landscape-level challenges on and near NFS lands.
- Generate lessons learned for agency management and decision making.
IFNF Round 1

Launched program in 2019

$1.8 million awarded to 10 projects in 2020
What’s it all about?

Not for directly funding projects

Helps attract more money for larger impact
IFNF Overview: Capital Sources

**Private Investment**— debt-financing models for upfront project costs promising a financial return as well as social and/or environmental outcomes. Or accessing environmental markets paying for ecosystem services.

**Public Financing**— non-Forest Service public financing, including low-interest loan funds, bonds or other public debt from federal, state, or local sources.

**Blended approaches**— combine private investment, public finance, and even philanthropy or corporate sustainability into public-private partnership models.
IFNF Overview: Finance Models

**Debt or equity financing:** from public or private sources, for upfront project costs, repaid by project beneficiaries (payors).

**New or existing markets:** for environmental goods or services.

**User-based:** funding projects using fees or other contributions.

**Blending:** Using multiple sources of funding or finance.
IFNF Overview: Focus Areas

1) Watershed Health

2) Sustainable Recreation Infrastructure and Access

3) Wildfire Resilience and Recovery
IFNF Overview: Project Locations

National Forest System

Adjacent Lands
(e.g., State, Local, Tribal, Private)

Cross-boundary combo of NFS and adjacent lands
IFNF Overview: Project Types

**PILOT**
- Demonstrate finance tools
- Enable implementation
- New revenue or repayment
- Path to replication

**SCALING**
- More, Bigger, Faster
- New Places
- Aggregation
- Meet USFS needs for scale

**RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT**
- Financial Innovation
- Customer & Market Discovery
- Measurement & Quantification
Application Review Criteria

1. Problem Statement
2. National Forest System Nexus
3. Team and Partners:
4. Policy
5. Practices and Methods
6. Payors (i.e., direct payment or repayment)
7. Financing Sources (i.e., upfront capital)
8. Project Site(s) and Readiness
9. Impact and Scaling Potential
10. Measurable Outcomes
11. Barriers to Success
12. Timeline, Deliverables, and Budget
Funding

- $2.0 million available for 2021
- Awards: Varies by Project Type up to $500,000
- Max. 3 years: Projects must conclude in 2024.
- 20% minimum non-federal match requirement
- RFP may change in any future rounds
USFS Engagement

This is pretty important!

Partnerships are key

Projects must have a connection to NFS health and be clear on roles.

USFS units cannot receive IFNF funds
We can also help

Discuss Project concepts

Connect with USFS units

Additional examples and resources

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Eligibility

Not-for-profit organizations
Indian Tribes & Intertribal Consortia
State, interstate, local government agencies
Academic institutions
For-profit companies
Public/private partnerships are encouraged

Unincorporated individuals, Federal agencies *not eligible*
Ineligible and Limited Activities

No lobbying or litigation

No direct funding for land acquisition

No direct funding for stewardship/restoration

Federal agencies cannot apply

Cannot match other federal programs

Less than 15% for education, interpretation, land management planning (NEPA), convening, scientific research, market standards/tools, and monitoring.
Schedule

Program Announcement: April 27, 2021
Advising, concept development: May 2021 – June 2021
Proposals due: Wednesday, June 30, 2021
Tentative funding decisions: September 2021
Timeline posted on ifnfgrants.org. Late applications will not be considered.

Talk to us anytime
Resources

www.ifnfgants.org

- 2021 Request for Proposals
- Intro to Conservation Finance
- USFS Conservation Finance materials
- Conservation Finance Opportunities Map
- Contacts
- Updates

https://www.usendowment.org/grant-rfps/
- US Endowment portal – online application
Visitor Center Upgrade

New Coldwater Visitor Center Needs $20 - $30 Million

Secure upfront $$$ and repay from lodging revenues.

Blended approach with philanthropy
Forest Resilience Bond

Build off successful $4 Million FRB in Tahoe National Forest to maintain watershed and reduce fire risk.

Scaling up:
• Expand within watershed
• Expand to other NFs
Wildfire Resilience Insurance

Quantify the wildfire reduction risk from ecological forestry practices.

Research the potential for insurance products which generate funds from premium savings.
IFNF Summary

1. Scalable and replicable finance tools to support Focus Areas
   ◦ Watershed Health
   ◦ Sustainable Recreation Infrastructure
   ◦ Wildfire Resilience and Recovery

2. Project Types
   ◦ Pilots, Scaling, Research & Development

3. Target Lands
   ◦ NFS only; adjacent state, private, tribal; or cross-boundary

Proposals due: June 30, 2021
THANKS FOR LISTENING.
Contact Information

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