

RGWF 2018 RFP - Application Guide

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**Required*

All Projects

We require projects to be part of broader landscape-scale efforts. Please briefly describe the strategies, goals, size (acres), location, and planning status of your landscape-scale effort in the project narrative. Explain how the proposed project fits within ongoing efforts (e.g., Landscape Restoration Strategies, Community Watershed Protection Plans). Proposals seeking to initiate collaborative groups should consider applying for the capacity building category of this RFP (Sec 9.4). Be specific about how results of the project will contribute to landscape-scale outcomes.

All proposals should be based on sound science and include a list of references.

Project Overview*

5,000 Characters Max

Project Story*

Tell us what is compelling about your project and how we can explain your story to the public 1,000 characters max

List Objectives*

Concise list of project objectives (1,000 characters max)

List Deliverables*

Concise list of project deliverables (1,000 characters max)

Workplan and Map*

Please upload the following (upload boxes on form):

- Workplan ([see and download example here](#)) A tabular list of:
 - What will be accomplished?
 - Who will do the work?
 - When will the work be completed?
- Map Image and zipped digital spatial data (e.g., ESRI Shapefile, KMZ, KLM)
- Lead applicant's qualifications[∞], include educational and relevant work experience, and provide evidence of successful performance in project and financial management by the applicant.
- Letter(s) of support from partners
 - For projects on landscapes with federal NEPA requirements, you must also include a letter from the relevant line officer committing to completing the NEPA if funds are requested for planning assistance.
 - If a federal nexus exists, the required compliance documentation must be in place for projects that propose only implementation activities.
 - For implementation projects on landscapes with federal jurisdiction. You must document that all NEPA requirements have been completed and that you are ready for implementation.
 - Explicitly state any cash funding from local governments, regardless of amount. This funding will be given higher weight during the review process.

**Required*

Monitoring*

Monitoring of ecological and socio-economic variables are required component of all RGWF projects. Applicants can perform monitoring or defer to the RGWF to manage project monitoring. If you are considering doing your own project monitoring, select "No" below and use the decision support matrix to help determine whether your organization has the capacity to perform required monitoring. If you decide to defer monitoring responsibilities to the RGWF select "Yes"

Monitoring Plan (if applicable)

Be sure to review the 2018 RGWF Treatment Monitoring Guidelines ([link](#))

Consider the option to defer to the RGWF for monitoring, data collection, and data management. If you choose to request funding please clearly address any "No" answers in the monitoring plan narrative. In addition, please, describe your:

1. Experience with the following:
 1. Collecting pre-treatment data
 2. Collecting pre-treatment data
2. Quality assurance and quality control standards and procedures, both in the field and in the office
3. Data management and storage policies and procedures
4. Personnel organization and crew structure

Budget*

Describe how RGWF and other funding will be used in the project.

Produce budget narrative and spreadsheet: [click here to download budget template](#)

- Amount of funding requested.
- List specific activities RGWF monies would pay for.
- Every budget expense must have a unit cost, number of units, and total cost portrayed in the budget spreadsheet and detailed in the budget narrative.
- Match or leverage: contributions of cash, in-kind support.
- For this RFP leverage is defined as all funding provided by any partner toward achieving the project goals, in the past 5 years.
- For this RFP match is defined as non-federal in-kind or cash contributions, and must be tracked as required by the Uniform Guidance for Matching Funds.
- Include monitoring in your budget only after you have reviewed the monitoring requirements and elected to monitor your own project.

Include separate totals for:

1. Total Project Cost
2. RGWF Requested
3. Leveraged Funds

Forest Restoration Projects (if applying for)

Describe the opportunity to act, or the strategic advantage of the project, to reduce the risk of high-severity fire, reestablish natural fire regimes, and/or increase the resilience of forest-based ecosystem services. All proposals must describe the scientific and evidence based rationale for your proposed activity or prescription. In the project narrative, please respond to the series of questions below. Not all questions may be relevant to all projects. If a question is not relevant to the proposed project, please state why.

For all proposals, clearly describe the outcomes, in terms of forest acres restored, jobs created, and/or local economic impacts.

Risk: How does your project contribute to reducing wildfire risk in the adjacent larger landscape? Provide a map that shows the strategic placement of your project and in the narrative, your assumptions about why it will be effective.

- Why is this project urgent?
- What community values are at risk?
- Describe the engagement of local communities and agency cooperators

(documentation in letters of commitment). Provide specific examples and extent of engagement

Implementation: Are the proposed on-the-ground actions listed in the as described in the RGWF Comprehensive Plan, Appendix D?

- How will the implementation help achieve the goals outline in Section 4?
- What capacity exists within the landscape to ensure successful

completion of the implementation plan?

- Project funding is available to develop, fund, and run a local (place-based) fuels reduction and restoration crew. The crew must be able work across boundaries, and may be tied to a specific geography with diverse 'shovel ready' projects. Please describe innovative strategies to accomplish restoration, employ local youth, involve multiple agencies, and work across boundaries. Must also apply for Capacity Building (Section 9.4)

Economics: What are the opportunities for economic and community development?

- Will your project supply wood products to existing wood processing businesses OR is there potential for new wood-using industry?
- Will your project provide for traditional and community wood supply (e.g., free or low-cost firewood)? If yes, include an estimate of the volume.
- Will the project create jobs? If yes, describe the nature, estimated numbers, and skills of the necessary workforce.

SWARP Projects (if applying for)

Describe the opportunity to act, or the strategic advantage of the project, to restore a river-floodplain connection; repair or restore slope or depressional wetlands or wetland complexes; restore ecological process, function and hydrology to increase ecosystem stability; increase native biodiversity; increase resilience to climate change through water storage or drought resistance; and/or create or restore aquatic and riparian

**Required*

habitats. In the project narrative, please respond to the series of questions below. Not all questions may be relevant to all projects. If a question is not relevant to the proposed project, please state why.

For all proposals, describe the outcomes in terms of wetland acres, and stream miles restored.

Impairment: What is the cause of the impairment within your proposed project area?

- What evidence do you have that illustrates that an impairment exists?
- Have you quantified the level of degradation? Yes/No if, yes explain: you may illustrate this through existing data or other metrics such as: water quality indicators, threatened and endangered species habitat status, macroinvertebrate indicators, entrenchment ratio (geomorphic demonstration of impairment, incision-severed connection of wetland and water table), encroachment of woody species, lack of riparian or wetland vegetation, CWA Section 303d list, etc.

- How will your proposed project address the source of the impairment

Technical Approach: Describe the technical approach to the project; including any specific treatments, materials, and design principles. Demonstrate the technical merits and project effectiveness through scientific rationale. Proposals may also include figures, photos or conceptual diagrams that help illustrate the project plan or technical approach.

- Is there recent peer-reviewed research that supports the use of your proposed technique(s)?

- Are there successful examples of the proposed technique(s) implemented in New Mexico or other Southwestern ecosystems?

- If applying a new technique, what is the rationale for using this method and what evidence do you have that it will be successful over other non-experimental methods? How will you monitor the effectiveness of your treatment/restoration project?

- What metrics will you use to indicate success and how often will you measure them to determine any long-term effects?

- Is there any baseline data? If so, who collected it? Will you use a similar protocol and match the frequency of data collection? If different, why?

Project Alignment: How does your project align with the objectives of the RGWF?

- How is local support for your project expressed?

- What was the community participation in your project planning and development?

- Who are the active members in your process?

Required for SWARP proposals: Any proposal for implementation on grazed land must have a letter of support from the land owner or permittee.

Capacity Building Project (if applying for)

Describe additional capacity needed to develop or improve the collaborative landscape restoration process in the context of project landscape. Proposal narrative should describe the long-term outcomes of the collaboration and future projects, including expected changes to land management. Applicants should discuss how they intend to

**Required*

increase their capacity, and the capacity of others, for collaborative management within the proposal landscape.

- Specifically, how will the project outcomes increase capacity for collaboration and lead to restoration outcomes? Tie your outcomes to the goals of the Rio Grande Water Fund.
- How will your project leverage the funds requested into increase local capacity for restoration?
 - What opportunities for innovation exist within the collaborative?
 - How is leadership shared among the partners in this project? Describe who is involved and what their individual roles will be in leading and commitment to the capacity building actions.
 - What are the 6-, 9- and 12-month project benchmarks? (Note: The more money requested the higher the required benchmark standards)