

Public Lands Initiative Grants

Request for Proposals 2024 — Submission deadline, Friday, March 15

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, in partnership with the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, are pleased to announce a request for proposals (RFP) in Public Lands Research and Management. This RFP is funded through the USU Public Lands Initiative, a legislative appropriation to the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station.

Proposals must focus on at least one of the following topics:

- Management of public lands
- Evaluation of restoration projects
- Recreation planning
- Fire ecology and management
- Animal and plant species conservation
- Animal movement
- Economics of public land use
- Creative tools to integrate the management of private, state and federal lands in Utah

Proposals that address aspects of issues identified in the Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air's Reports to the Governor and Utah Legislature (<https://www.usu.edu/ilwa/files/report-2023.pdf>) are especially encouraged.

All successful projects must have a clear application for their outcomes, such as: new assessment tools for land managers, programs to assess the economic value of management plans, recreation management plans for specific locations, or programs to assess the effectiveness of land restoration efforts. Successful projects should demonstrate a high probability that applying findings can yield a significant impact within a reasonably short period of time.

The Proposal Narrative is limited to five single-spaced pages with a 12-point font and one-inch margins and must include:

1. A list of references, budget, budget justification and brief (2-4 page) biosketch for the Project Director. These are not included in the five-page limit.
2. A clear project justification, scope of work, description of anticipated impact(s), including an estimated time frame for when this impact can be realized, and description of how project outcomes will enhance public lands management and/or policy.
3. A 1:1 match from external partners such as a city/town, conservation district, state or federal agency, private industry, non-governmental organization, etc. The match can be a combination of in-kind and/or cash. If you need assistance identifying possible opportunities or connecting with the appropriate people in an agency, industry, or NGO, you are invited to contact Anna McEntire (anna.mcentire@usu.edu), Associate Director of USU's Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air.
4. A separate Budget Justification must be submitted with the budget template and must specifically justify each of the budget items as well as describe the match.

The required cover page and budget template are posted at <https://caas.usu.edu/uaes/internal-resources/project-support>. The maximum request must not exceed \$60,000 and the timeline for

completion may not exceed 24 months. Only one proposal from a given principle investigator will be considered.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2023, and must be submitted electronically at <https://caas.usu.edu/uaes/internal-resources/project-support>.

Please submit a single PDF document assembled in the following order: (1) Cover Page, (2) Project Narrative (limited to five pages), (3) References, (4) Budget Form, (5) Budget Justification, and (6) PD's Brief Biosketch (limited to 4 pages).

Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit and potential impacts on public lands management and ranked by a Public Lands Initiative Advisory Board. Funding decisions will be made to the deans of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and Quinney College of Natural Resources. The deans reserve the right to fund or not fund recommended projects as well as the right to fund projects at full or partial levels depending on the appropriateness of the budget and budget justification.

If you have questions about the Public Lands Initiative Grant Program or how to submit a grant proposal, please contact Greg Cuomo (email:greg.cuomo@usu.edu, phone: 435-757-1520).