

FY2011 Western Competitive Resource Allocation

Webinar

Tuesday, August 10

10-11 AM MDT



Resources, Partnerships *and* Solutions
for Western Forestry Challenges
WESTERN FORESTRY LEADERSHIP COALITION



Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Quick Recap of Previous Webinars
- Timeline
- Competitive Grants in Context
- Program Authorities

**Please feel free to interrupt
and ask questions
at any time!**



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Quick Recap

- National & Regional Guidance
 - Emphasis on State + Federal partnership
 - State Assessments & Strategies
- New western proposal forms
 - Fillable PDF
 - Revised format and flow
 - Revised scoring elements
- Info @ http://wflccenter.org/spf_grants_11/



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Timeline

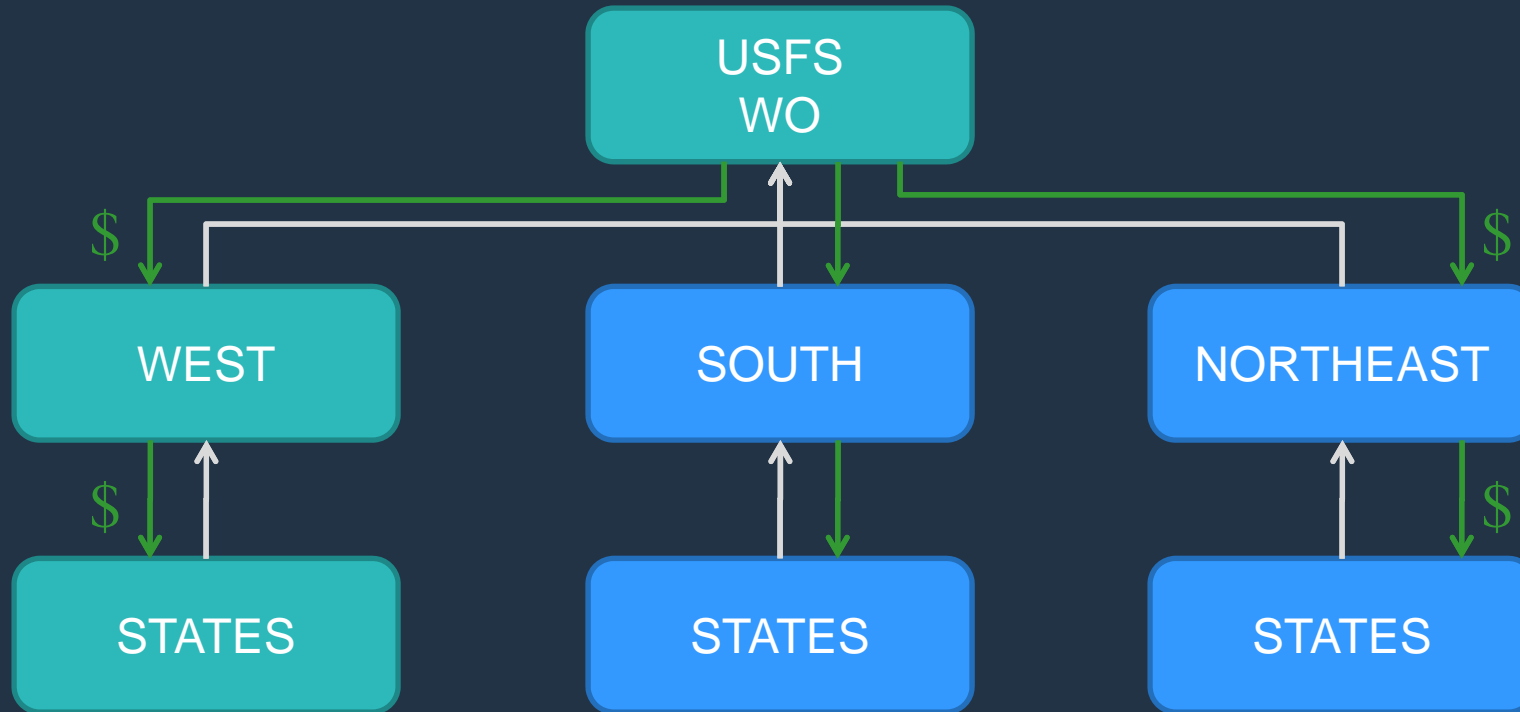
- June – Western regional guidance released
- **Oct 4 – Project proposals due**
- Oct-Nov – Grant team scoring meetings
- **Nov 15-17 – Final recommendations made at WFLC Fall Meeting in San Diego**



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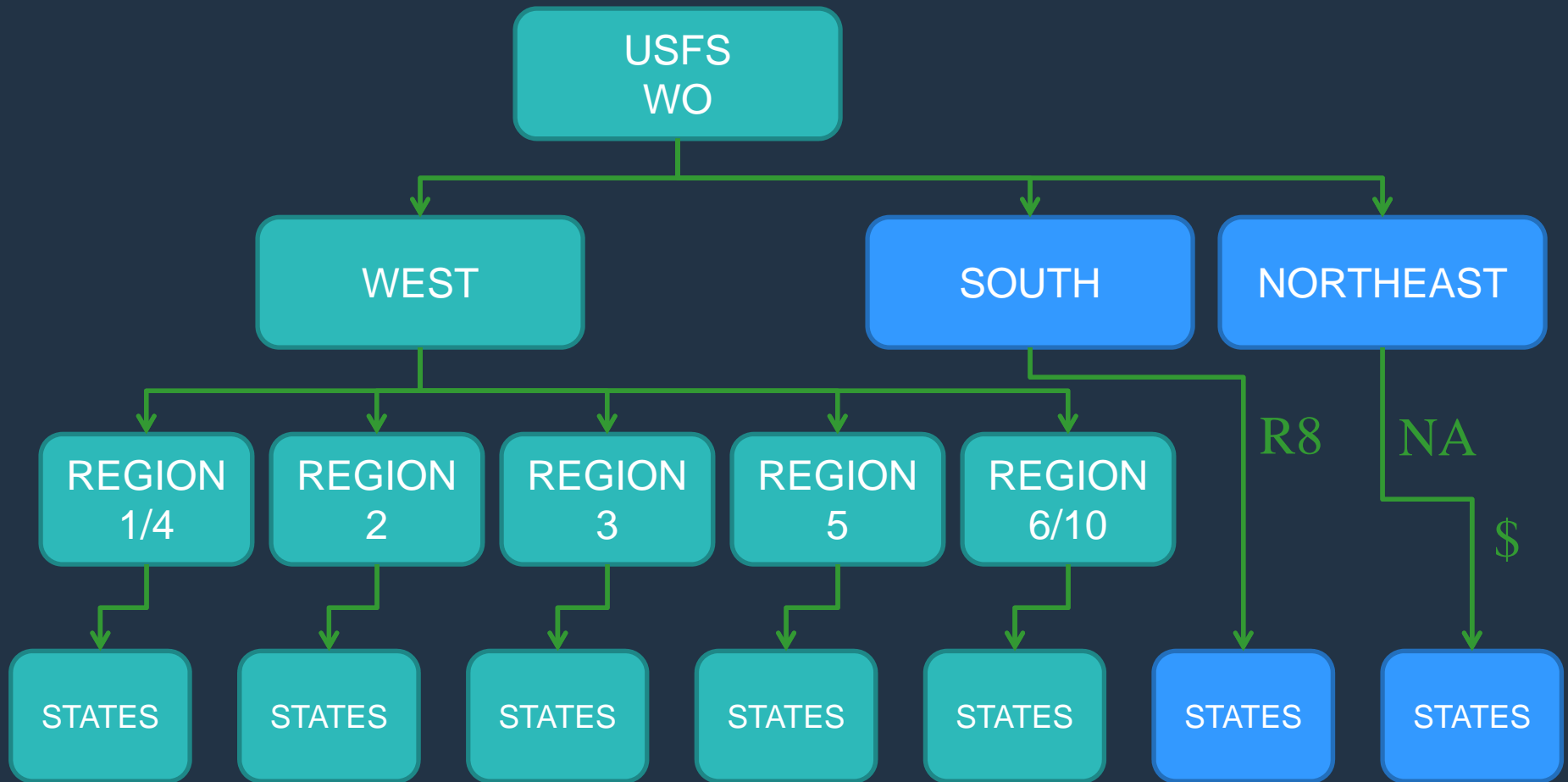
Competitive Grants in Context



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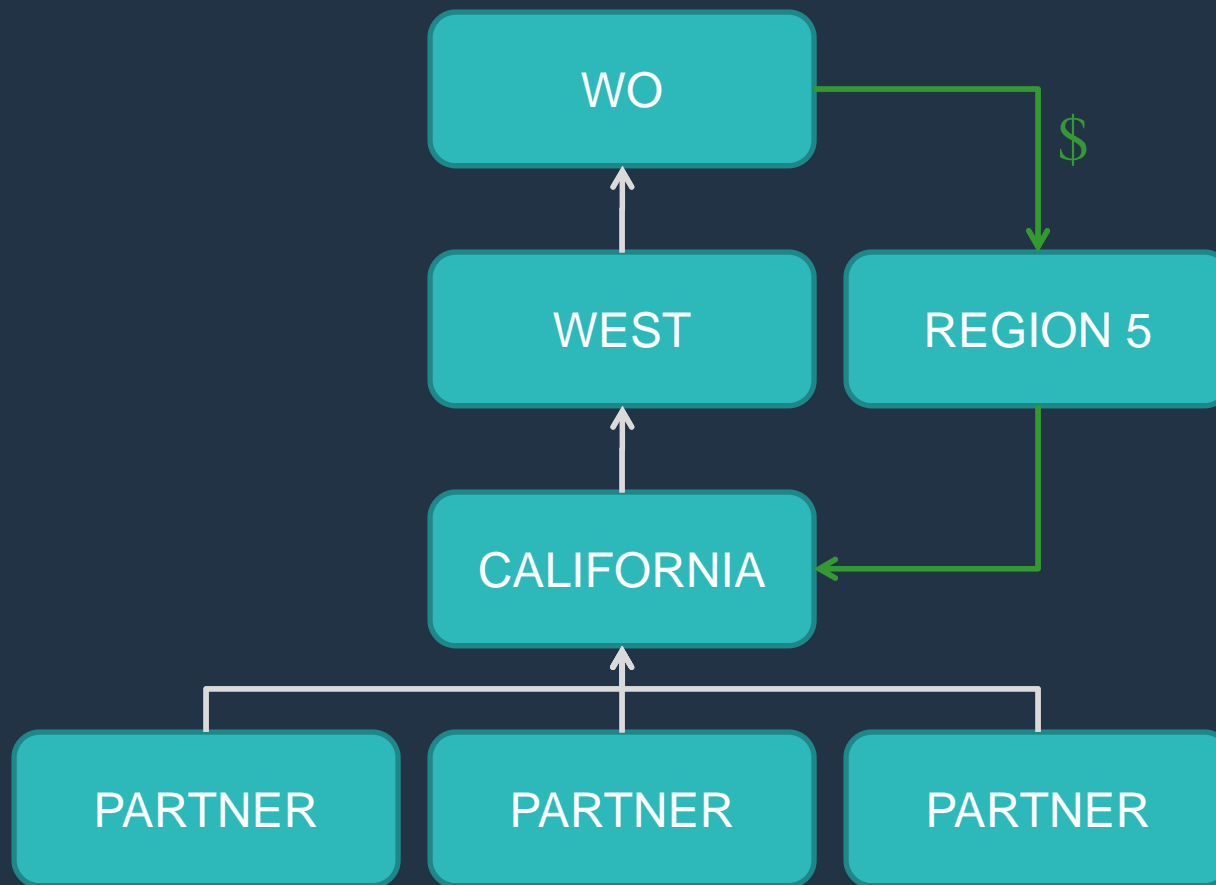
Competitive Grants in Context



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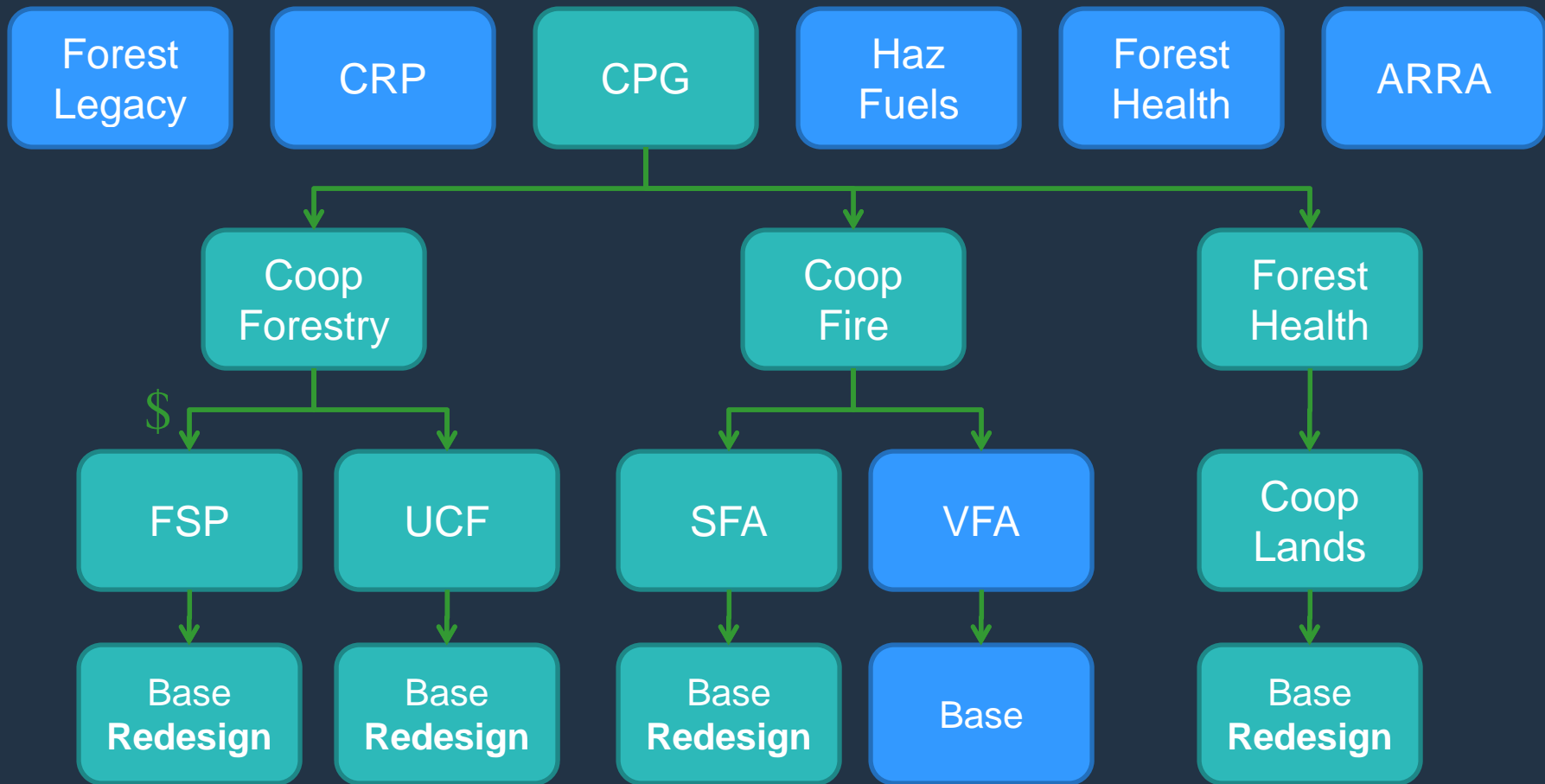
Competitive Grants in Context



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Competitive Grants in Context



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S&PF Programs

YES

- Forest Stewardship
- Urban and Community Forestry
- Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands
- Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands (National Fire Plan)
- State Fire Assistance
- State Fire Assistance (National Fire Plan)

NO

- Volunteer Fire Assistance
- Forest Legacy
- Economic Action
- Federal Lands Forest Health Management

State Forestry Agencies are the only entities eligible to receive these grants.



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S&PF Program Authorities

- [US Code, Title 16, Chapter 41 – Cooperative Forestry Assistance](#)
- [The Principal Laws Relating to USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs](#)
- [Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance – CFDA 10.664](#)



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16 USC Chapter 41

- 2101a: Statewide Assessment and Strategies for Forest Resources
- 2102: Rural Forestry Assistance
- 2103a: Forest Stewardship Program
- 2104: Forest Health Protection
- 2105: Urban & Community Forestry
- 2106: Rural fire prevention and control
- 2108: Consolidation of payments
- 2109a: Competitive allocation of funds



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USFS S&PF Handbook

- Last published version is from October 2005, so it must be used with a crosswalk to the 2008 Farm Bill and/or relevant sections of 16 USC Chapter 41



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CFDA 10.664

- **AUTHORIZATION:** Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, Public Law 95-313; Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990, as amended, Public Law 101-624
- **OBJECTIVES:** With respect to nonfederal forest and other rural lands to assist in the advancement of forest resources management...
- **USES & RESTRICTIONS:** To assist State Forester or equivalent agencies in forest stewardship programs on private, State, local, and other nonfederal forest and rural lands. Programs may include: production of timber and efficient processing and use of wood products; developing genetically improved tree seeds; producing and distributing tree seeds and seedlings; reforestation...



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When questions arise...

- Refer to WFLC FAQ documents
- Communicate with USFS Program Managers and SPF Directors
- Turn to S&PF Program Authorities and Authorities that guide the administration of grants and cooperative agreements for answers
- Answers rely on interpretation of statute



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G&A Authorities and Regulations

- [CFDA: Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#)
 - 10.664 is relevant to both programs and the administration of grants & agreements
- [FSH 1509.11: Forest Service Handbook](#)
 - Chapter 20: Federal Financial Assistance (grants & cooperative agreements)
- [OMB Circulars](#)
 - A-102: Grants and Cooperative Agreements With State and Local Governments
 - A-110: Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Non-Profit Organizations



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Construction

- FSH 1509.11 – Grants, cooperative agreements, and other agreements handbook Chapter 20 – federal financial assistance (grants & cooperative agreements)
- (6) Construction. If costs are included in this element, ensure the provisions of the Forest Service statute under which the Grant or Cooperative Agreement is awarded allows construction, as **it is not common for statutes to include the building of other's structures**. If Federal funds are to be used to reimburse the costs of construction, Davis-Bacon wage rates may be applicable, if specifically stated in the statute. Since construction costs are uncommon, consider contacting personnel in the unit fiscal office or the Washington Office, Procurement Policy Branch Chief for support, verification, and guidance.



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Construction (cont'd)

- What is a “structure”? What is “construction”?
 - Q1: I have a potential stream rehab project that will require the use of an excavator to install root wads and/or other stabilization structures to stop bank erosion. After the structures are installed, riparian planting along the banks will follow. Can grant funds be used to pay for excavator work?
 - A1: Under 10.644 the project meets the objective of maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat with some of the same thoughts to reforestation... I don't consider maintaining a stream course construction. **We are not erecting something.**



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Construction (cont'd)

- What is a “structure”? What is “construction”?
 - Q2: Work would mainly consist of repairing identified problem spots on existing roads that are bleeding sediment into fisheries streams. Typical projects might include upsizing culverts, replacing blown culverts with rolling dips, and/or rocking wet fords.
 - A2: I agree that this isn't a construction project (**no facility is being built**) - good advice to couch the project & goal as a restoration project to fish & wildlife habitat.



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Construction (cont'd)

- Projects rejected from FY2010 competition included budgeted “construction” activities:
 - Construction of several alternate road segments away from water resources
 - Construction and maintenance of roads and/or fuel breaks to access the site and control fire spread
- Reflects an interpretation of “roads” or “road segments” as “structures” and therefore unallowable costs



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Proposed FAQ

- Q: Are construction activities allowed in competitive grant projects?
- A: Generally speaking, construction is not an allowable cost under current S&PF Program Authorities. Projects that involve construction of new buildings or roads will not be funded. Projects that involve restoration activities (e.g., stream bank stabilization, repairing existing culverts) with a direct benefit to the forest and/or wildlife habitat may be funded.



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Other FAQs

- Existing
 - Match v Leverage
- In Development
 - Color of money
 - Research
 - **Others???**



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Questions?

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http://wflccenter.org/spf_grants_11/



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Notes from webinar

Tuesday, June 8 @ 10 AM MDT

Attendees:

WFLC	Dana Coelho (host)
Utah Dept of Natural Resources	Geoff McNaughton
Utah Dept of Natural Resources	Mike Eriksson
South Dakota Resource Conservation & Forestry	Tiffany Arp
South Dakota Resource Conservation & Forestry	Coe Foss
South Dakota Resource Conservation & Forestry	Greg Josten
South Dakota Resource Conservation & Forestry	Ray Sowers
New Mexico Forestry Division	Susan Rich
Montana DNRC Forestry Division	Dan Rogers
Kansas Forest Service	Tim McDonnell
Idaho Dept of Lands	Mary Fritz
Idaho Dept of Lands	David Stephenson
Hawaii Division of Forestry & Wildlife	Sheri Mann
Colorado State Forest Service	Naomi Marcus
Colorado State Forest Service	Keith Wood
Colorado State Forest Service	Greg Sundstrom
Calfire	Jill Butler
CA RC&D	Marty Leavitt
Arizona State Land Dept	Glen Buettner
Arizona State Land Dept	Louise Wakem
Alaska Division of Forestry	Jeff Graham
Alaska Division of Forestry	Rick Rogers
	Tina Burnett
	Mary Klaas Schultz
	Scott Woods
	Steve Gibbs
	Orson Bevins

Summary:

- Provided a summary of the June 8 webinar and competitive grants timeline
- Discussed regional, western, and national context within which competitive grants to the states happen
- Presented references for researching and understanding S&PF program and grants & agreements authorities
- Discussed construction as an example of an authorities question
- Had an open discussion

Questions & Answers:

Q: Are construction activities allowed in competitive grant projects?

A: Generally speaking, construction is not an allowable cost under current S&PF Program Authorities. Projects that involve construction of new buildings or roads will not be funded. Projects that involve restoration activities (e.g., stream bank stabilization, repairing existing culverts) with a direct benefit to the forest and/or wildlife habitat may be funded.

Q: Are references (e.g., to website, journal articles) allowed within a project description?

A: Yes, but a reference may not be the most valuable information to include within the limited character space of a project description. A project reviewer will not follow the link; he or she will base the evaluation solely on information provided on the proposal form.

Follow-up Actions:

- Pursue and document answers to the appropriateness of the following as part of a competitive grant:
 - equipment purchase
 - fence construction
 - research
- Develop and share a list of successful projects in the west