Launched with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, the Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative permanently protects lands in Oregon, Idaho and Washington that can preserve biodiversity, durable wildlife habitat and functional migration corridors as the climate changes. The Initiative is a partnership of three community foundations — Oregon Community Foundation, Seattle Foundation and Idaho Community Foundation — with the Land Trust Alliance and the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation.

Doris Duke Charitable Foundation has seeded a land capital fund, housed at the Oregon Community Foundation, with $4 million. The three community foundations will maximize this investment by working with donors in a coordinated manner to raise additional funds for land acquisition and land trust capacity-building efforts through the Alliance’s Pacific Northwest Advancing Conservation Excellence program.

The land capital fund is now accepting proposals.

The attached guidance document details eligibility criteria and other program elements. Please review it carefully as you evaluate whether your project is a potential fit.

The land capital grants support land trust acquisitions that advance climate resilience. The primary decision support tool underpinning the grant selections is a methodology developed by The Nature Conservancy: Conserving Nature’s Stage. It identifies natural places that, due to a local diversity of geophysical factors and a relative absence of barriers to the movement of species and habitats, are most likely to withstand the growing impacts of climate change and offer refuge to a diverse array of plants and animals. These sites often also provide people with important natural services, such as clean and abundant drinking water, and they buffer communities from climate change impacts.

Applicants will be asked to articulate how and to what extent the proposed acquisition advances climate resilience, both in reference to Conserving Nature’s Stage and other relevant data sources. The application also addresses the proposed acquisition’s broader conservation values, its feasibility, stewardship needs, organizational focus and community benefits. Proposals will be accepted from accredited land trusts — and those on a pathway to accreditation — for transactions that will permanently protect land and will close by the end of 2021.

The Initiative aims to leverage Doris Duke Charitable Foundation’s seed funding on a 5 to 1 basis, so projects able to meet or exceed that target are especially encouraged to apply. Please note that projects without a 5 to 1 leverage are eligible. Applicants may also include accompanying projects
that both functionally relate to the proposed acquisition and have been protected within the Initiative timeframe.

Land Trust Alliance staff will review applications for eligibility and completeness before making an initial feasibility assessment. A team of technical experts will evaluate each project relative to the TNC data. Additionally, a committee of volunteers (the Land Protection Committee) with expertise in land acquisition, funding and conservation science will evaluate the applications. The committee will arrive at a final project ranking, taking into account the proposed projects’ intersection with the TNC data, committee member evaluations and Land Trust Alliance’s assessment of project feasibility.

The Land Protection Committee will utilize this final ranked list to designate a portfolio of projects to support in 2021. Final decisions about the portfolio will take into account the factors noted above as well as the overall leverage goal of 5 to 1. The committee will work to ensure the portfolio, in aggregate, can achieve the 5 to 1 goal. In December 2020, the committee will recommend allocation of at least $1.4 million in funds held at Oregon Community Foundation to select projects in the portfolio. Projects recommended for these funds will receive notice from Oregon Community Foundation and the Land Trust Alliance. Throughout 2021, the Alliance and its community foundation partners will work to engage donors to raise additional funds for portfolio projects, with the goal of funding all portfolio projects by the end of 2021.

The Alliance and our community foundation partners view the initiative as a collaboration with the land trust community. Throughout 2021, we will work with land trusts that have projects in the portfolio, along with the land trust state associations, to promote the initiative’s broader goals of protecting resilient landscapes and investing in resilient land trusts. Please understand that inclusion in the portfolio is not a guarantee of funding, but an invitation to collaborate in these efforts. The more we can achieve together, the more projects we will be able to fund.

To begin the online application process, click on the following link or copy it into your browser: https://www.grantinterface.com/Common/LogOn.aspx?urlkey=landtrustalliancegrants

- Click on “Create an Account” to set up your username and password for the site. **If you have previously received funding through the Alliance on-line system you do not need to create another account.**
- Once you have created your account and logged on, click “Apply” in the top navigation bar.
- Type in the access code 2747 in the small box in the upper right corner and press enter.
- Click on “Apply” under 2020 Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Land Capital Grants.
- The application will now be visible and you may begin.

If you encounter technical difficulties using the online application, please contact Catherine Waterston, Western Program Coordinator with the Land Trust Alliance, at 971-202-1484 or cwaterston@lta.org.
Please complete the Land Capital grant application through the Alliance’s online grant system by Sept. 9, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding this grant program, please do not hesitate to reach out via phone or email. If you have questions related to project eligibility, the selection process, or the Initiative in general, please contact Owen Wozniak, Land Transactions Program Manager with the Land Trust Alliance. For questions regarding the Conserving Nature’s Stage resilience science, other questions regarding data sources, or assistance with creating maps, please contact our technical consultant Bob Unnasch, PhD, with Sound Science, LLC.

Owen Wozniak  
Land Transactions Program Manager  
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503-460-7045

Bob Unnasch, PhD  
Principal  
Sound Science, LLC  
bob@sound-science.org
Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative
Grant Application Guidelines

For More Information Contact:

Owen Wozniak
Land Transactions Program Manager
Land Trust Alliance
503-460-7045 | owozniak@lta.org
**Overview and Purpose**

In 2018, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF) entered into a grant agreement with the Land Trust Alliance (the Alliance), Oregon Community Foundation (OCF), Seattle Foundation, and Idaho Community Foundation to support the Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative (the Initiative). The Initiative will advance climate-resilient land conservation in the Pacific Northwest by re-granting capital funds to accredited land trusts to purchase land as identified through the application of resilience science, and by providing capacity building re-grants to support land trust efforts to incorporate resilience science in conservation planning.

The goals of the Initiative are to:

- permanently protect resilient, underrepresented geophysical settings in the Pacific Northwest; and
- expand the use of resilience science by land trusts as they set their land conservation priorities.

The initiative is part of a broader effort by the Alliance to build the capacity of land trusts in the region, guided by the recognition that to protect resilient landscapes, we must also have resilient land trusts.

**Applicant Eligibility**

Applicants must be:

- a land trust operating in Oregon, Idaho and/or Washington with at least two years of 501(c)(3) status and at least two completed land transactions;
- an Alliance member in good standing; and
- accredited or on a path to accreditation, as evidenced by a board resolution with a specific timeline.

Staff or board members from the applying organization must have completed an Alliance training in resilience science or commit to attend such a training within one year of seeking capital funds. Applicants that have received comparable training in climate resilience elsewhere can satisfy this requirement by appropriately documenting the date and content of the training.

Qualifying Alliance trainings include:

- “Climate Resilience for Land Protection” track of the “Integrating Climate Change into Conservation Strategies” training held by the Alliance, the Coalition of Oregon Land
Trusts and the Washington Association of Land Trusts on Nov. 18, 2018, in Vancouver, Washington;
• May 14, 2019, training at the Idaho Coalition of Land Trusts;
• June 18, 2019, training at the Northwest Land Camp;
• “Climate Resilience for Land Protection” seminar at Rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, in October 2019; and
• July 7, 2020, webinar on resilience science presented by the Alliance.

For pass-through transactions, in which the applicant is not the intended long-term owner or steward, the applicant must demonstrate that the eventual long-term owner has appropriate capacity, expertise and commitment to stewardship, as articulated in Land Trust Standards and Practices.

Applicants must demonstrate a clear intent and approach to integrate climate resilience into their strategic conservation planning, evidenced by an existing conservation plan incorporating resilience data, or a clearly articulated timeframe for completing such work.

**Project Eligibility**

Alliance staff will evaluate all applications to determine eligibility, using the following criteria:

- Projects should intersect with Above Average Resilient Lands as identified by The Nature Conservancy’s 2015 *Conserving Nature’s Stage* report and subsequent refinements.\(^1\) Applicants are advised to refer to Nature’s Stage Climate Mapper and/or the Conserving Nature’s Stage NPLCC DataBasin Gallery for relevant datasets and maps. This is the predominant means by which the Initiative will assess projects’ climate resiliency. Projects that do not intersect with Above Average Resilient Lands, but which can demonstrate climate resilience in reference to other data sources, are also eligible, though the burden is on the application to provide appropriate documentation of such data.
- Projects must provide permanent protection. If a conservation easement is proposed, the easement must explicitly run in perpetuity. Easements that authorize timber, pulp or other forestry operations shall, to the extent practicable, require Forest Stewardship Council certification. If this requirement is not practicable for a given project, the applicant will be asked to articulate an alternative management standard and justify its use. If a fee simple acquisition (with no conservation easement) is proposed, the project must demonstrate a high likelihood that the land will remain conserved over time and the conservation and climate resilience values will persist.
- The project must include a commitment to stewardship and demonstrate that the intended long-term owner/manager, whether the applicant or an entity to which the

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applicant intends to convey the property, has or will obtain adequate stewardship capacity.

- The acquisition must be able to close by the end of 2021.

Eligible costs include acquisition, recording fees, transfer and real estate taxes, environmental assessment and limited clean-up (excluding remediation of toxic waste), carrying costs, surveys, appraisals, outside counsel, and other fees or expenses necessary and appropriate for the completion of a transaction. Staff costs for transactions, stewardship endowments and stewardship operations are not eligible. All costs, whether to be granted or counted as match, must be incurred within the Initiative timeframe (Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2021).

**Evaluation Process**

An expert consultant will utilize a Geographic Information System (GIS)-based spatial analysis to evaluate and score each proposal on five climate resilience metrics. (This score will account for 40% of the project’s overall score.)

- The project’s overall climate-resilience, based on the percentage of a project’s area that is rated as more climate-resilient.
- The proportion of lands within a 3-kilometer radius of the project’s boundaries rated “above average” or “far above-average” for resilience. This is an indication of the relative resilience of the project’s landscape.
- The distance to public lands (Gap status 1-3) and protected lands (Gap status 1-2), measured from the project boundaries.
- Regional connectivity, based on the proportion of lands within 50 kilometers of the project that are impeded, constrained, diffused or blocked.²
- A measure of each project’s exposure to climate change, measured by “backward” and “forward” climate velocity.

The Land Protection Committee, composed of volunteers with expertise in land acquisition, funding, and conservation science, will evaluate proposals and score them along the following criteria:

- The project’s additional and significant contribution to climate resilience as articulated by the applicant. This is distinct from the GIS-based analysis described above and requires the applicant to identify relevant data and provide landscape context to support the climate resilience benefits claimed for the project. This is especially relevant for projects that may not align closely with the Conserving Nature’s Stage analysis, but which can demonstrate strong climate resilience on the bases of other relevant data.

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(20% of overall score. If project has no such additional and significant dimensions, this section will not be scored and the GIS-based technical assessment’s scoring allocation will be proportionately increased.)

- The project’s overall conservation values, such as the presence and likely persistence of significant species, habitat types or ecological functions. (15% of overall score.)
- The project’s technical feasibility and likelihood of closing on time. (Not scored. Alliance staff will qualitatively evaluate applications and facilitate a discussion by the Land Protection Committee. The evaluation and discussion will inform the final composition of the project portfolio.)
- The project’s stewardship needs and the applicants’ proposed stewardship approach. (Not scored. Alliance staff will qualitatively evaluate applications and facilitate a discussion by the Land Protection Committee. The evaluation and discussion will inform the final composition of the project portfolio.)
- The applicants’ approach to climate resilience in terms of its conservation and public engagement strategies. (5% of overall score.)
- The community benefits of the project. (Applicants will assign scoring weights to the following criteria such that, in aggregate, they equal 20% of the overall score.)
  - Climate resilience benefits to, and applicant partnership with, local communities – in particular, historically marginalized or especially climate-exposed populations.
  - The land trust’s equity strategy and the relevance of this strategy to the proposed project.
  - The extent to which the project engages indigenous peoples as supporters, partners, or co-owners.
- The Initiative’s goal of achieving broad geographic representation across the portfolio. (Not scored. Alliance staff will facilitate a discussion by the Land Protection Committee to inform the final composition of the project portfolio.)
- The Initiative’s commitment to leveraging DDCF funds on a 5 to 1 basis with other public and private funds across the portfolio of projects. (Not scored. Alliance staff will facilitate a discussion by the Land Protection Committee to inform the final composition of the project portfolio.)

Please see the appendix for the full evaluation criteria.

The committee will agree upon a final project ranking in November 2020. The Alliance, in consultation with the Land Protection Committee, DDCF and the three partner community foundations will utilize this ranking to designate a portfolio of projects to support in 2021. Final decisions about the portfolio will take into account the factors noted above as well as the overall leverage goal of 5 to 1. The committee will work to ensure the portfolio, in aggregate, can achieve the 5 to 1 goal.

In December 2020, the committee will recommend allocation of at least $1.4 million in funds held at OCF to select projects in the portfolio. Projects recommended for these funds will
receive notice from OCF and the Alliance. Throughout 2021, the Alliance and its community foundation partners will work to engage donors to raise additional funds for portfolio projects, with the goal of funding all portfolio projects by the end of 2021. Inclusion in the portfolio is not a guarantee of funding.

Data Resources

Applicants should utilize relevant scientific data to make the strongest possible case for their project’s climate resilience benefits. Recommended data sources include:

- [Conserving Nature’s Stage in the Pacific Northwest](#), including Conserving Nature’s Stage terrestrial resilience maps and data sets;
- [Nature’s Stage Climate Mapper](#), including geoclimatic stability maps for Pacific Northwest watersheds;
- [Adaptwest](#), a climate adaption clearinghouse;
- [NorWeST](#), a regional stream temperature database; and
- [StreamNet](#), an aquatic habitat information clearinghouse.

Match Requirements

As noted above, the Initiative is committed to leveraging DDCF funds to the maximum extent possible, with a targeted ratio of 5 to 1 across the portfolio of funded projects. Applicants are not required to demonstrate a 5 to 1 match for their projects. However, applicants are encouraged to secure the most robust leverage possible. Projects that squarely achieve the Initiative’s climate resilience goals and deliver superior leverage will receive additional consideration.

The project eligibility section, above, summarizes the types of expenses eligible for grant funding or match. In addition, applicants can include as match any acquisitions and associated transactions costs completed during the Initiative timeframe (Jan. 1, 2019, to Dec. 31, 2021) that are related to the proposed project in terms of connectivity and/or ecological function. Applicants will need to explain and contextualize the relationship between the proposed project and any match properties, and provide relevant maps and images.

Grant Awards

Projects recommended for funding commitments will receive an award letter from the OCF. The letter will include a Grantee Acknowledgment form asking applicants to agree to:

- grant reporting requirements;
- periodic phone check-ins with the Initiative partners;
- potential site visit(s);
- use of photographs and other media for Initiative purposes; and
• completion of a due diligence questionnaire within 60 days.

Upon receipt of the completed Grantee Acknowledgement, due diligence questionnaire and a preliminary title report, the Alliance will work with each grantee to develop a scope of work and progress schedule for each project. The scope and schedule are intended to match, to the greatest extent possible, the grantee’s existing project benchmarks and due diligence/reporting requirements vis à vis other funders. The scope of work and progress schedule will become the basis for OCF’s approval and eventual release of grant funds.

**Reporting Process**

Consistent with the agreed-upon scope of work and progress schedule, grantees will submit a final narrative report through the online system used to apply for this grant. The scope of work will specify reporting deadlines. Failure to complete required reports may result in a grantee forfeiting a portion or all of the grant funds awarded.

**Conservation Easement & Stewardship Standards**

The Initiative will neither mandate specific management practices nor require specific deed language. However, the Alliance will require projects meet minimum stewardship standards and easement terms (if a conservation easement acquisition is proposed) to ensure projects maintain resilience and conserve native biodiversity and ecosystem processes. Please review the following standards prior to submitting an application.

**Stewardship**

The conservation organization or agency that will own and/or manage the land must demonstrate that it will prioritize conservation of biological diversity, wildlife habitat and/or other closely related conservation values in the acquisition. Stewardship actions should explicitly address climate resilience, specifically the ability of an area to adjust and adapt to climate change while maintaining species diversity and ecological function.

Management activities should:

- minimize road building, stream crossings and other activities that may inhibit wildlife movement;
- enhance connectivity through road closures, reforestation and removal of invasive species;
- recognize that native plant and animal species and composition of natural communities will shift in response to climate change;
- prohibit mining and oil/gas extraction, except for limited removal of gravel or sand to be used on the protected property;
- minimize or prohibit intensive recreational uses (ATVs and RV camping, for example) that can destroy micro-climates and/or impede wildlife movement;
• retain mature, native forests and prohibit conversion of native forests to agriculture or other uses;
• result in forests with diverse structure and composition, protect soils, minimize forest fragmentation and generally maintain the ecological integrity specific to the site; and
• identify and minimize impacts to sensitive habitats.

The organization or agency stewarding the property should be able to demonstrate it has sufficient funding and capacity to manage the land for these values.

Conservation Easements

To ensure consistency with the Initiative’s goals, conservation easements should address the following.

• The easement should be permanent.
• The purposes section should place priority on protecting the property’s native biological diversity, ecological processes and climate resilience, defined as the ability of the property to adjust and adapt to climate change while maintaining species diversity and ecological function.
• The recitals section should enumerate the property’s value to conserving aquatic and/or terrestrial biological resources and sustaining climate resilience across the landscape.
• The restrictions and reserved rights sections should establish enforceable and clear standards for permanent protection of the land’s ability to support native habitats, biological diversity, resilience characteristics and ecosystem processes.
  o New land surface alterations or native habitat conversions should be prohibited.
  o Mining and oil/gas extraction should be prohibited. (The easement may include limited exceptions for removal of gravel or sand to be used on the protected property, such as for road maintenance or to support restoration actions per a management plan.)
  o If commercial forest and/or agricultural production is allowed, the conservation easement should specify that forestry and/or agriculture activities are conducted in a manner that protects the property’s ability to maintain healthy soils and to support native habitats, biological diversity, resilience characteristics and ecosystem processes.
  o If commercial forest production is allowed, it must be certified to the extent practicable by the Forest Stewardship Council. If this certification standard is not viable for a given property, an alternative standard must
be defined, sufficient to ensure the persistence of the conservation and resilience values over time.

- Effective and practical monitoring and enforcement provisions should be included.
- The easement should ensure a process for regular, productive communication between the easement holder and landowner.
- The easement should require that a management plan be created, and should include language allowing the easement holder and landowner to refine the plan to meet the purposes over time.

The easement should reference a Baseline Documentation Report that, along with the standard sections, describes the project’s climate resilience characteristics. The Alliance will review this report prior to the release of grant funds.

If a stewardship or management plan is available before closing, the Alliance will review it. If no such plan exists, the Alliance will require grantees to provide a draft or outline of such a plan prior to releasing grant funds.

**Starting Your Application**

To begin the online application process, click on the following link or copy it into your browser: [https://www.grantinterface.com/Common/LogOn.aspx?urlkey=landtrustalliancegrants](https://www.grantinterface.com/Common/LogOn.aspx?urlkey=landtrustalliancegrants)

- Click on “Create an Account” to set up your username and password for the site.
  - You will be asked some basic organizational and contact information.
  - Please note: If you have previously received funding through the Alliance on-line system you do not need to create another account.
- Once you have created your account and logged on, click “Apply” on the top navigation bar.
- Type in the access code **2747** in the upper right corner and press enter.
- Click on “Apply” next to “2020 Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Land Capital Grants.”
- The application will now be visible and you may begin.

If you encounter technical difficulties using the online application or have general questions about the initiative, please contact Catherine Waterston, Western Program Coordinator at the Alliance, at cwaterston@lta.org or 971-202-1484.
### Appendix: Complete Project Evaluation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criterion</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Climate Resilience Values (as spatially assessed relative to CNS datasets)</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>If project has no such additional and significant dimensions, this section will not be scored and the GIS based technical assessment’s scoring allocation will be proportionately increased.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Climate Resilience Values</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Values</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility</td>
<td>Not scored/weighted</td>
<td>Alliance staff will facilitate an LPC discussion of project feasibility.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship</td>
<td>Not scored/weighted</td>
<td>Alliance staff will facilitate an LPC discussion of stewardship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational Focus</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Benefits</td>
<td>0-20%</td>
<td>Weights assigned by applicant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equity</td>
<td>0-20%</td>
<td>Weights assigned by applicant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indigenous Peoples</td>
<td>0-20%</td>
<td>Weights assigned by applicant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Resilience Values:** This considers the project’s benefits relative to the Conserving Nature’s Stage terrestrial resilience assessment and, where relevant, considers additional measures of long-term climate resilience.

- What percentage of the project intersects with above-average resilient lands identified by Conserving Nature’s Stage?
- What is the project’s location and function relative to resilience density, local permeability and regional connectivity measures?
- To what extent is the project exposed to climate risks that could limit resilience, such as accelerated climate departure, sea level rise or likely future development that could block connectivity?
- To what extent does the project strategically leverage resilience across a larger area, such as by preventing blockage in an area of channelized flow or removing a specific threat to landscape-scale resilience?
• To what extent does the project connect or otherwise relate to important conserved lands?

• To what extent does the project provide climate resilience benefits not adequately captured in the Conserving Nature’s Stage framework? To what extent does the applicant clearly demonstrate these benefits?

Conservation Values: This considers the project’s overall existing and future conservation benefits.

• What are the project’s principal existing and proposed conservation values? How durable are these values likely to be over time? Do proposed conservation restrictions adequately allow for necessary adaption as the climate changes?

• What is the project’s size and landscape setting? To what extent is/are the landscape setting(s) under-represented among existing conserved lands in the ecoregion? Have these landscape settings experienced high levels of historic loss?

• What rare or significant species, habitats or natural features are present? How likely are they to persist?

• How does the project address existing conservation priorities as identified in state wildlife action plans, endangered species recovery plans or other established conservation plans?

Feasibility: This considers the project’s technical design and likelihood of success.

• How likely is the project to be completed within the timeframe (within 18 months of a grant award)?

• What significant complicating factors (political, financial, technical or logistical) exist? How likely are these factors to delay or undo the project?

• Does the applicant have capacity, expertise and/or partnerships commensurate to the proposed project?

Stewardship: This considers land management and stewardship, both for current and desired future conditions.

• How likely are the project’s values to persist over time in light of a changing climate? Does the project design allow for necessary climate adaption?

• If timber harvest, grazing or other extractive practices are contemplated, how consistent are these with climate resilience?

• How complex and resource-intensive is the stewardship need?
• Does the applicant (or eventual land owner/manager, if different) have relevant and sufficient expertise and capacity to steward the project? Has the applicant demonstrated a viable strategy for addressing the initiative’s stewardship expectations, as outlined in the RFP guidance?
• Are other changes to the landscape over time likely to complicate or impair stewardship? Has the applicant demonstrated a viable strategy for anticipating potential long-term stewardship challenges?
• Is there a draft stewardship plan or other evidence of the applicant’s stewardship planning?
• If the project is a conservation easement, will the easement language appropriately address climate resilience and allow for dynamic stewardship over time?
• How likely is the applicant to have secured sufficient stewardship resources at the time of closing?

Organizational Focus: This considers the degree to which the project advances the applicant’s commitment to incorporating climate resilience as a conservation strategy and organizational priority.

• Does the project implement a conservation plan that considers terrestrial climate resilience?
• Does the project specifically advance a defined climate resilience conservation strategy?
• Does the project have potential to catalyze additional resilience-focused land protection work and is there indication the applicant will prioritize such work?
• Does the project provide opportunities for public engagement around issues of climate resilience? Does the applicant indicate an intention or plan to do such engagement?

Leverage: This considers the degree to which the project meets or exceeds the targeted 5 to 1 leverage ratio. While individual applicants will not be held to a specific ratio and are encouraged to request funds based on actual need, applicants should demonstrate they have worked diligently to locate and secure leveraging funds.

Community Benefits: This considers the project’s climate resilience-related benefits to communities.

• Does the project directly build community resilience to climate change? Examples could include but are not limited to: securing or strengthening community access to water or food resources; decreasing risk from and/or enhancing resilience to flooding, wildfire or other hazards; and bolstering sustainable, local economic activities.
• Does the project entail meaningful collaboration with local communities? Have they been engaged in the project’s conception, design and intended outcomes? Have they invested time, money or other resources?
• Does the project include explicit communication or engagement opportunities and strategies around climate resilience? Is there evidence that this project will help advance a community’s capacity and willingness to address climate adaption or mitigation?
• Does the project provide important ecosystem services (such as water provision, exceptional existing or potential carbon sequestration) and capture how will these services affect or be affected by climate change?

**Equity:** This considers the project’s specific relationship to communities and groups – typically lower income and/or historically marginalized groups – disproportionately at risk from climate impacts.

• How has the applicant assessed community climate risk and risk to vulnerable populations?
• How does the project benefit such populations? Are these benefits intentional and integral to the project’s design?
• Does the project address structural or historical inequities in community members’ relationship to the land? If so, are these benefits intentional and integral to the project’s design?
• To what extent has the applicant developed the project in partnership with these populations?
• Has the applicant considered and addressed the project’s potential unintended impacts, such as population displacement or loss of customary access to natural or cultural resources?
• Does the project advance an organizational equity strategy?

**Indigenous Peoples:** This considers the project’s relevance to and impact on the region’s indigenous peoples. They are the first stewards of North America, hold sovereign rights and are among the most important leaders in pursuit of lasting solutions to the world’s most pressing conservation challenges.

• How has the project engaged indigenous peoples?
• Does the project incorporate indigenous ways of knowing, including but not limited to indigenous understanding of climate change and resilience?
• Does the project support effective authority of indigenous peoples and/or support their efforts towards self-determination?
Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative

Definitions

Conserving Nature’s Stage: An analytic framework created by The Nature Conservancy to identify the most resilient terrestrial sites in the Northwest United States that will collectively and individually best sustain native biodiversity, even as the changing climate alters current distribution patterns. Conserving Nature’s Stage measures resilience at the site and local (3-kilometer radius) scale. It pairs this with an analysis of broad-scale landscape connectivity, identifying areas likely to facilitate ecological flow — particularly movement, dispersal, gene flow and distributional range shifts for plants and terrestrial animals — over large distances and long time periods.

Ecofacet: The portion of a land facet found within an ecoregion. The 162 land facets in Conserving Nature’s Stage, stratified by the 11 ecoregions in the study area, generate 794 discrete ecofacets. The terrestrial resilience analysis compares each ecofacet occurrence against other occurrences of the same ecofacet across the region.

Ecofacet resilience: The range of resilience values for all pixels (i.e., mapped units, each 270 meters on a side) within an ecofacet. Conserving Nature’s Stage designates the top two fifths of pixels within a given ecofacet as more resilient (relative to other pixels in that ecofacet).

Ecological flow: The movement of species and ecological processes across the landscape.

Geophysical features: Characteristics used to describe the Earth’s surface, including topography, geology and soils. These characteristics form the basis of land facets in Conserving Nature’s Stage.

HUC6: A sixth field, or 12-digit Hydrologic Unit, as mapped by the United States Geological Survey (USGS)’s National Hydrography Watershed Boundary Dataset. A typical unit of watershed analysis, it is used in Nature’s Stage Climate Mapper.

Land facets: Conserving Nature’s Stage identifies land facets as unique combinations of soil orders (11), elevation (seven 600-meter bands), and slope (three categories). The analysis identifies 162 such land facets; these comprise the “geophysical setting” or “stage.”

Leverage: Funds used to complement Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative land capital funds in completing land acquisitions under the Initiative. Synonymous with “match.”
The Initiative has a goal of leveraging Doris Duke Charitable Foundation’s capital funds ($4 million) on a 5 to 1 basis across the portfolio of funded projects.

**Local permeability**: The degree to which regional landscapes, encompassing a variety of natural, semi-natural and developed land cover types, will sustain ecological processes and are conducive to the movement of many types of organisms.\(^1\) Also referred to as connectivity.

**Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative (the Initiative)**: An initiative to advance climate-resilient land conservation in the Pacific Northwest, through permanent protection of resilient lands and underrepresented geophysical settings; expanded capacity of land trusts to use resilience science to protect resilient lands; and increased private donor support for climate-resilient conservation. The Initiative is a collaboration among the Land Trust Alliance, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Seattle Foundation and Idaho Community Foundation.

**Permeable landscape**: A landscape in a natural or semi-natural condition that is free of barriers to species movement and/or ecological flows. Human modifications to the landscape, including agriculture and development, decrease permeability.

**Pooled funds**: Funds contributed by donors to the three partner community foundations, to support land capital and capacity building grants awarded by the Land Trust Alliance. The community foundation partners have pledged to raise $3 million or more over the three-year term of the Initiative.

**Regional flow**: A measure of ecological flow across a 50-kilometer distance. Conserving Nature’s Stage uses an omnidirectional analysis to identify the direction and concentration of regional flow, estimating how flow patterns at this scale may become diminished, redirected or concentrated through certain areas due to the spatial arrangements of cities, towns, farms, roads, open water or natural land. The analysis first considers the amount and configuration of natural lands available to connect within 50 kilometers to calculate a total potential flow in the absence of barriers. It then takes into account barriers. This method identifies several key types of resulting regional flow: diffuse (spread out across highly intact areas with few barriers), intensified (accumulating at key linkages), channeled (intensified through pinch-points) and impeded (where strong barriers are present).

**Resilience**: The degree to which a place can sustain a variety of species and maintain ecological processes despite a changing climate. Conserving Nature’s Stage quantifies resilience by combining the degree of topoclimate diversity and local permeability of the area. A resilient system is one that allows adaptive responses by species and is less likely to change its species composition.

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**Resilience value:** A combination of local topoclimate diversity and landscape permeability assigned to each pixel that ranks it as more or less resilient. In essence, topoclimate diversity plus permeability equals terrestrial resilience.

**Resistance:** The degree to which movement of organisms to nearby areas is impeded by dissimilar structural characteristics and condition of the surrounding landscape. Resistance is modeled as a raster surface where each cell is given an integer value (resistance weight) ranging from 1-20, with 20 assigned to cells representing areas most converted from natural condition (or most developed).

**Topoclimate Diversity:** The amount of variation in local climates represented. Conserving Nature’s Stage quantifies topoclimate diversity by measuring diversity of local temperatures and the range of soil moisture potential across a 450-meter radius neighborhood.
Map Guide and GIS File Submission Requirements

Please prepare two annotated PDF maps.

- Map 1 should identify your proposed acquisition in detail. It should include an outline of the property over an aerial image, at a scale that allows the viewer to see general land uses, structures (if any) and pertinent geographic features.

- Map 2 should be at a broader scale and show how your project supports regional conservation. It should include surrounding land ownership (private, state, federal, land trust, etc.), existing protected lands, and any pertinent conservation prioritizations (such as state wildlife action plans) for the area.

Please ensure that project features mentioned in the application narrative appear on the maps.

If you are proposing to provide match based on acquisition of a separate property, please ensure such property also appears on the second map. If the match property is too distant to appear on this map without sacrificing appropriate scale, please create a third map at a sufficient scale to show both the property requesting funds and the match property. Please ensure the map(s) adequately depict(s) functional connections between the properties as described in your application narrative.

If you do not have GIS capabilities, you can make a map in DataBasin. Open DataBasin at https://databasin.org, choose “Create” from the middle of the top bar, and choose “Create a Map.” Zoom to your project. Use “Layers” on the left-hand side of the browser to open Basemaps, and choose a basemap layer. Choose “Export” at the left-hand side of the top bar to save your project as a PDF, PowerPoint or PNG file. Annotate the map in Adobe Acrobat Standard (using the Comment toolbar to the far right), PowerPoint or another drawing/editing program.

In addition to the PDF maps, please submit GIS files of the project. Submissions may be shapefiles or Esri Feature Classes (FCs) within a Geodatabase. Please note:

- The coordinate system of your data layers (whether geographic or projected) must be defined. (The coordinate system can be identified in the layer’s Properties under the Source tab using ArcMap or under the XY Coordinate System tab using ArcCatalog.)

- Each GIS shapefile or FC must have the following tabular attributes:
  - **Org_Name** [string/text field defined for >= 50 characters] – Name of submitting organization, matching the name in the written proposal.
  - **Site_Name** [string/text field defined for >= 50 characters] – Name of site, matching the project name in the written proposal. (Each of a project’s tracts must have the identical site name.)
- **Tract_Name** [string/text field defined for >= 50 characters] – Each individual tract must have a unique name which can be cross-referenced to your proposal.
- **GIS_Acres** [float] – Use the “Calculate geometry” function to populate.
  - GIS acres should be within approximately 10% of the project acres specified in your written proposal.
  - Avoid:
    - overlaps between adjacent polygons;
    - duplicate polygons; and
    - “multi-part” polygons (so that for a single tract comprised of multiple polygons, those polygons should have an identical ‘Tract_Name’ but be submitted as separate, “single-part” polygons).

Each shapefile or FC should be named using the following format: “FullOrganizationName_ProjectName” (e.g., “LandLegacy_NorthProject”).

Once prepared, compress all of a project’s shapefile file components (.shp, .shx, .sbx, .dbf, .prj, .shp.xml) and/or geodatabase into its own zip archive.

Name each project zip archive the same as the shapefile(s) and/or FC it contains (e.g., “LandLegacy_NorthProject.zip”).

Nest your project zip archive(s) within a single zip archive named for your organization followed by “_2020” (e.g., “LandLegacy_2020.zip”)

E-mail your organization-level zip archive to Catherine Waterston, Western Program Coordinator, Land Trust Alliance, cwaterston@lta.org.

If you do not have GIS capabilities, please contact our technical consultant Bob Unnasch, PhD, of Sound Science, LLC, at bob@sound-science.org or 208-860-0780. He can assist you in creating a GIS file from a Google Earth sketch.