Public Lands Council
Funding Guidelines
Request for Proposals on: Economic analysis of varied fuels mitigation strategies across grazed ecosystems.

CONTACTS
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OVERVIEW

The Public Lands Council (PLC) is the only national organization solely dedicated to representing the interests of cattle and sheep producers who hold federal grazing permits. Since 1968, we have amplified the voice of public lands ranchers in Washington and across the country.

Federal grazing permittees face unique political, environmental, and economic challenges that set them apart from livestock producers in other regions of the country. They are also uniquely positioned at the nexus of many of the most pressing policy concerns of our time – wildfire mitigation, water access and quality, rangeland and soil health, carbon sequestration, wildlife conservation and management, and safeguarding the future of sustainable and sustained multiple use on federal lands, to name just a few.

Public lands ranchers form the backbone of many rural communities and local economies, play a vital role in our national food supply chain, and lead the way in innovative and responsible stewardship of landscapes across the West. **For more than a decade, PLC has provided grant opportunities to develop tools that will help us defend and advance the future of grazing on public lands and will assist us in working cooperatively with federal agencies and other stakeholders toward that goal. Through these grants, we work to improve conditions for those engaged in livestock grazing on public lands, improve the products of our industry, and attain a higher degree of efficiency in the operation of our members' businesses.**

Past proposals that have received funding include scientific research, communications campaigns, and business development projects.

PLC periodically issues Requests for Proposals to fulfill certain research or program objectives. Concurrently, PLC offers an open Notice of Funding Availability for consideration of funding applications

on a rolling basis. Applicants should review this document carefully and complete the application form to apply.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PLC seeks proposals to conduct an economic analysis to evaluate the relative cost effectiveness of fuels management techniques that promote improved resilience to fire (including catastrophic fire). Proposals should present a draft methodology that can be applied across a suite of tools to evaluate applying a specific fuels management practice and evaluating the likelihood of success to produce a cost savings in fire suppression. Proposals may include, but are not necessarily limited to:

1. Comparison of tools available and utilized on various land jurisdictions (state v. federal v. private).
2. Comparison of tools available by region/ecosystem/state.

The analysis should be completed no later than 12 months from the date of execution of the award.

Applications must be submitted to Brodee McCormick no later than: December 1, 2026 (for consideration at the December 2026 Board of Directors Meeting), or March 28, 2027 (for consideration at the April 2026 Board of Directors Meeting).

PROCESS

Applications will go through an initial round of review by PLC staff and sent to the PLC Executive Officers and Board of Directors. Applicants who are successful in moving to the next round of review will receive invitations to present to the PLC Board of Directors at their next meeting following proposal submission. The PLC Board of Directors will evaluate proposals and select successful applicants.

PROGRAM PRIORITIES & APPLICATION QUESTIONS

PLC's specific needs change from year to year in response to emerging issues our members are seeing on the ground, new legislative or regulatory proposals in Washington, changing ecological conditions, etc. **Both new and returning applicants should review this section carefully. Do not assume that our priorities are the same as a previous year.**

To be competitive, proposals should address the following questions:

1. How, in your view, does this project support PLC's goal of defending and advancing the future of grazing on public lands, and working cooperatively with federal agencies and other stakeholders toward that goal?
2. What form will the finished product of this project take?
3. Do you plan to leverage the finished product outside of your collaboration with the Public Lands Council? If so, how?
    - For scientific papers, please describe your plan for getting this work published.
    - For scientific papers and other research products, please describe any potential collaborations, presentations, or other sharing of this work that you hope to do outside of PLC.
    - For commercial products, please describe whether you intend to sell the product in the private sector and whether you would be willing to negotiate royalties.
4. Please speak to the realistic timeline of your project.

EVALUATION

All applicants must complete the attached application form. All proposals will be screened for accuracy and completeness, and then evaluated based on the extent to which they meet the following criteria:

Program Priorities: Project has a clear nexus with PLC's goals. Applicant(s) have taken care to address all required questions regarding the usefulness of the finished product and have put forward a realistic timeline for completion. Applicant(s) have addressed one or more of the specific avenues of inquiry for a specific RFP or one of the objectives listed in the above section.

Affiliate Support: Applicant(s) have communicated with one or more PLC affiliate organizations and secured letters of support for their proposal to be submitted as part of the application package. Preferential consideration will still be given to proposals that have taken the time to gain support among producers in the West.

Technical Merit: Project is technically sound and feasible. Applicant(s) have outlined an achievable work plan and timeline. Applicant(s) have clearly articulated the metrics they will use to measure success in this project. If scientific, applicant(s) have shown awareness of the latest discourse on their topic, shown a commitment to data-driven, impartial research, and identified specific final target numbers.

Cost Effectiveness: Proposal includes a defined financial request and a clear budget for the project. Applicant(s) have taken care to address risks associated with the project that may incur an unexpected financial burden. Applicant(s) have articulated an effective argument for why this project is a good investment of PLC funds.

Need: Proposal establishes a clear need for the funds being requested, and applicant(s) have demonstrated that the project is unlikely to move forward without the financial support of PLC.

Transferability: Project has the potential and plan to transfer lessons learned to a broader community. Applicant(s) have stated how their work could be integrated in PLC's future efforts to shape government programs and policies.

Past Success: Applicant(s) have included sufficient background information on their professional careers to demonstrate a track record of successful project management.

If Applicable, **Long-Term Continuity:** If the proposal is for a multiyear project *OR* there are other circumstances or factors that may result in the original applicant(s) not being able to complete the project under their own supervision, applicant(s) have appropriately outlined the steps they will take to ensure continuity and completion of the project. Applicant(s) have identified partners within their university, company, organization, local community, etc. who are qualified and willing to carry on any PLC-funded work to the project's stated endpoint — ensuring that no investment of grant funds is in "default."

A complete rubric of evaluation criteria will be made available to all applicants. Please contact staff if you need a copy.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligible applicants include both individuals and teams associated with non-profit organizations, educational institutions, state government agencies, local government agencies, Tribal governments and organizations, private businesses, and educational institutions.

Ineligible applicants include U.S. federal government agencies, unincorporated individuals, and international organizations.

PLC funds may not be used to procure goods or services for the applicant(s) beyond the reasonable execution of the project; acquire goods, services, permits, or other tools needed for a different project; lobby, advocate, fundraise, or litigate; or comply with legal requirements, including mitigation and settlement agreements. ***Note: Overhead costs of any project application may not exceed 7.5% of the total award requested.***

If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the staff listed on the first page.

REPORTING

All grant recipients must communicate regularly with Public Lands Council staff on the project's status.

Successful grantees will provide a quarterly verbal update (can take the form of a phone call or virtual meeting). Written updates will occur at 6-month intervals; release of the final 20% of the awarded funds will occur only upon receipt and approval of a final written report at the end of the year.

HOW TO APPLY

The application begins on the following page of this document. Please take care to fully complete all pages and questions. If you have questions while working on your proposal, please contact PLC staff.

We encourage you to include any supporting materials that are necessary to make a strong argument for the proposal, but we also ask applicant(s) to be as concise as possible. Please be considerate of our volunteer leadership and limit documents to a reasonable number.

Please compile your completed application and supporting materials in one PDF document.

When saving your proposal as a single PDF, please name your document accordingly:
"PLC Proposal_[Organization]"

When you are ready to submit your proposal, please email as an attachment to Brodee McCormick (bmccormick@beef.org).

Public Lands Council Grant Program Application

Project Title

POINT OF CONTACT DETAILS
Full Name
Organization
Physical Address
Mailing Address (if different from above)
Office Phone
Cell Phone
Email
Nine-Digit Employer Identification Number

Total Amount Requested (USD)
Project Location (for multistate projects, please list all)

Basic Application Questions

1. How, in your view, does this project support PLC's goal of defending and advancing the future of grazing on public lands, and working cooperatively with federal agencies and other stakeholders toward that goal? **(Answer in 400 words or fewer)**

2. What form will the finished product of this project take? **(Answer in 200 words or fewer)**

3. Do you plan to leverage the finished product outside of your collaboration with the Public Lands Council? If so, how? **(Answer in 400 words or fewer)**

4. Please speak to the realistic timeline of your project. **(Answer in 200 words or fewer)**

Supplemental Material

Please also attach the following to this application:

1. Project summary and workplan, including plans to publish any findings.
2. Project budget.
3. Project timeline.
4. Letters of support, if available.
5. Any other relevant information.