The proposed next step in this process is to provide The Trust for Public Land with $200,000 for a “deeper dive” in four states (CA, OR, WA, CO) identified in their first contract. The goal of this project would be to work with in-state partners and actually identify specific tracts to be protected and submit proposals to the State Revolving Fund for financing.

One of the greatest challenges to this approach is that State Revolving Funds provide low-interest loans, rather than outright grants. Thus, local partners must develop a mechanism to service loan debt. The Trust for Public Land will therefore devote considerable energy to creating payment for watershed service or similar programs that generate revenue-streams to pay-off the loans.