INNOVATIVE FINANCE FOR NATIONAL FORESTS GRANT PROGRAM

The Innovative Finance for National Forests (IFNF) grant program supports the development and implementation of finance models that leverage private and public capital other than U.S. Forest Service (USFS) annual appropriations. The goal is to enhance the resilience of the National Forest System and surrounding lands and deliver commensurate returns to stakeholders.

CHALLENGES FACING NATIONAL FORESTS

National Forests are treasures that benefit all citizens, but they are being degraded by catastrophic wildfire, drought, flooding, insect and disease disturbance, climate change, and development pressure. Government funding alone can’t keep pace. More than $6 billion is needed to maintain recreation infrastructure on National Forests alone. Another $50 - $100 billion is needed for forest health treatment on 63 million acres of National Forest lands to reduce catastrophic wildfire hazard, protect drinking water sources, and enhance wildlife habitat.

An estimated
63 MILLION ACRES OF NATIONAL FOREST LANDS AND 70,000 COMMUNITIES ARE AT RISK FROM SEVERE WILDFIRES

Your expertise and an IFNF Award can help

NATIONAL FORESTS BENEFIT ALL AMERICANS

About 80 million Americans get drinking water from the National Forest System

Fish and wildlife

Outdoor recreation across all National Forest contributes more than $14 billion to the U.S. economy and supports 205,000 jobs annually

More than 168 million visits are made to National Forests each year

More than 3,000 species of fish and wildlife call the National Forest System home

February 2023
IFNF GRANT SOLUTIONS
Leverage private and public capital other than USFS appropriations to:
• Deliver measurable social, ecological, and financial outcomes to many stakeholders
• Demonstrate solutions that promise improved financial sustainability for land management
• Chart a path to landscape-level challenges on and near National Forests
• Generate lessons learned to support agency management and decision making

34 IFNF GRANTS
$6.2+ MILLION
25 GRANTEES
14+ STATES
(as of July 2023)

FUNDING FOR 3 FOCUS AREAS

WATERSHED HEALTH
SUSTAINABLE RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESS
WILDFIRE RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY

FUNDING FOR 3 PROJECT TYPES

FEASIBILITY
PILOT
SCALING

IFNF AWARD WINNERS LEADING BY EXAMPLE

PROJECT TYPE: FEASIBILITY
Coalitions & Collaboratives, Inc., CO: $150,000 to explore creating RiverBANK, a revolving loan fund for forest and watershed health and wildfire resilience projects in Colorado adjacent to the Pike-San Isabel National Forest.

PROJECT TYPE: PILOT
Maine Mountain Collaborative: $160,000 to pilot a financial approach to secure recreation revenues to support management of private timber lands acquired by the Exemplary Forestry Investment Fund (a previous IFNF grantee) that are adjacent to the White Mountain National Forest.

PROJECT TYPE: SCALING
Salt River Project (SRP), AZ: $500,000 to quantify the co-benefits of water and carbon from forest restoration activities in Arizona. SRP will develop a comprehensive project portfolio and finance strategy that packages the water, carbon, and additional co-benefits to help diversify project funding.

MORE RESOURCES
Visit usendowment.org/ifnf to learn more about:
IFNF Informational Webinar Slides
IFNF Informational Webinar Recording
2020 and 2022 Grantees and Projects
USFS Conservation Finance Toolkit

The IFNF program is co-managed by the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities.