

## Appendix C Western Wildfire Risk Assessment (WWRA) Instructions

### FY2025 WSFM WWRA Competitive Grant<sup>1</sup> Criteria and Instructions to States/Islands

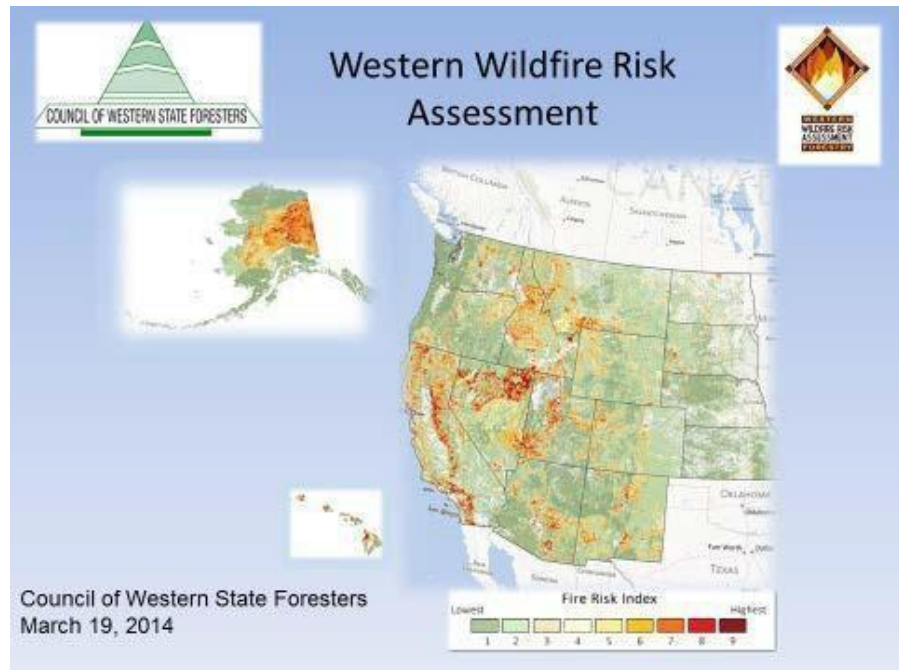
The WWRA Contract was completed in March 2013. Administrative control of the Western Wildfire Risk Assessment database transitioned from the state of Oregon to the Council of Western State Foresters. Each western state/island received a copy of their state/island-specific data.

The data in the WWRA provides information at both the western regional level and at the state/island-specific level. The state/island-specific data set may need to be calibrated by each state/island to better reflect state/island needs, better represent conditions on the ground within each state/island, and better communicate the data within the state/island.

The ability to explore and use WWRA data requires both GIS skills and knowledge of fire behavior inputs. Some states/islands have this capacity within their organization, some do not. Some states/islands have or are in the process of developing a web tool that allows access and display of the data through the web.

The CWSF accepted the WSFM's recommendation to designate a portion of the WUI Competitive Allocation for WWRA projects.

The general purpose of this action is to support states/islands in utilizing WWRA to meet their needs. CWSF recognizes that each state/island is unique in its needs and that different approaches may be needed to meet unique state/island needs.



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<sup>1</sup> Supported by National Fire Plan Funding through the State and Private Forestry Branch, USDA Forest Service. Administered through the Council of Western State Foresters, Western State Fire Managers WUI Subcommittee

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## **Grant Criteria: General**

- Up to 15% of the SFA/NFP WUI Competitive Grant funds will be made available to states and islands to calibrate, access, display, and/or utilize state/island-specific data delivered in the Western Wildfire Risk Assessment.
- Meets the 1:1 match requirement- if not the application will be considered ineligible. The allocated grant amount must be matched in full by the recipient using a non-federal source. Exception: Title III funds under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, PL 106-393, are not considered federal dollars and may be used as match. The matching share can be soft match (which includes training hours valued at an accepted rate, donated labor/equipment, etc.) and/or hard match (which is actual dollars spent other than federal grant funds within the specified scope of work.) If the project is part of the consolidated payment grant, matching funds can be combined or met from any one or all program areas. The Pacific Islands (excluding Hawaii) are exempt from the 1:1 match up to \$500,000 by statute. Anything in excess of \$500,000 requires a 1:1 match for Pacific Island applications.
- States/islands apply for funding through the WUI Competitive Grant process. Applications will be submitted through the online grant submission system.
- Only state/island forestry agencies may apply for these funds.
- States/islands receiving funds are responsible for matching funds.
- Individual grants for calibrating, accessing, or displaying state/island-specific data may not exceed \$150,000.
- Revisit annually and review the need to continue or modify direction to move toward a Western regional tool.
- The project must be for a qualifying activity- if it is not the application will be considered ineligible.
- No state/island will receive more than 15% of the funds available in the West.
- **The WSFM WWRA application will count as one of the 10 applications allowed for each state in the WUI Competitive Program.** If successful, the amount funded will count in the 15% max for each state/island.
- States/islands may only receive 2 WSFM WWRA Competitive Grants. If a state/island received a WWRA grant award in 2023 and another in 2024 they are not eligible to receive a 2025 award. This criteria will be revisited on an annual basis

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## **Grant Criteria: Qualifying Project Types**

### **Western Wildfire Risk Assessment Data to meet state/island needs**

- Project Types may include:
  - Calibration of data
  - Improvement of functionality
  - Improve utilization
  - Updating of data
  - Access to data
  - Display of data

### Examples of projects that qualify (not all-inclusive):

- Developing a web-based tool for the display of data
- Distribution of data through websites
- Using the Fire Effects tool to calibrate and re-run outputs
- Updating primary data sets such as Landfire and Fire Occurrence with the most current data available
- Leveraging other data sets, such as National Cohesive Strategy data
- Increasing wildfire risk awareness through the distribution of WWRA data
- Facilitate the use of risk assessment across jurisdictional and political boundaries

## Grant Scoring:

- All grants will be scored based on the following criteria; applicants must ensure that all boxes are filled in and the application is complete (**the highest possible score is 45**):
  - **Does the application clearly show how the budget will be spent by line item and are expenditures applicable and relevant to the goals and objectives of the project?**  
Clearly defined and applicable = 5                      Not defined/not applicable to project = 0
  - **Describe the Project- Does the application clearly describe the challenges and issues that articulate why the project is important?**  
Clearly defined = 5    Not defined = 0
  - **Planning Linkages- Does the application clearly link or tie the project to an existing community plan, or is the project consistent with the State Forest Action Plan(s) (Enhancing, Protecting, and or Conserving) or goals of the Cohesive Wildfire Strategy? The project must be linked to one of the planning elements. Does the project develop or refine an existing plan?**  
Clearly defined = 5    Not defined = 0
  - **Project activities- Does the application clearly define what the project is and what the project proposes to do? Does the application clearly define how the project will be accomplished, including identifying measurable outcomes? (are the proposed activities clear and achievable, goals defined, outcomes measurable, # of acres treated, # of education/outreach programs, planning efforts clearly described, etc.)**  
Clearly defined = 10    Not defined = 0
  - **Project/Landscape Impacts- Does the application clearly define the scale of the project including relationships with past, present, or future projects that, when combined, offer more benefits than when taken individually? Is the overall landscape that the project influences, in addition to the defined project area, clearly described?**  
Clearly defined = 5    Not defined = 0
  - **Collaboration- Does the application clearly define collaborative elements including support from partners, agencies, landowners, and communities? Are the contributions of the collaborators well described?**  
Clearly defined = 5    Not defined = 0



It is important to define the problems and challenges so when you get to Box 7 you are clearly stating how the funding will be used to address the challenges in this box.

- **Box 6-** Describe the relationship to a Forest Action Plan and to a CWPP. Clearly describe how the project fits into the goals of a Forest Action Plan (FAP) and detail the FAP goal(s) below. Outline the project's connection to the CWPP's goals and objectives and describe how the project accomplishes the goals and priority areas of both these planning documents.
- **Box 7-** Clearly describe each proposed activity and include how grant funds will be spent on WWRA project. The description must include measurables and how the project will be accomplished. Grant funds should be tied to the activities. Unlike the overview, this will provide the specific details of the project using measurable units that are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic, and timely where applicable.
- **Box 8-** Describe how the WWRA project has a greater impact on the landscape. Show how the WWRA project has or will have an impact outside the immediate project area. For example, an assessment may influence planning across jurisdiction boundaries. Give specifics on how this project will tie into the larger picture of community protection or education. The scale of a project must be the most appropriate size based on the land ownership(s), objectives, and outcomes (including cross-boundary goals) for the landscape. Detail how the scale is sufficient and meaningful for the project. Explain, the who, what, when, where, why, and how of the WWRA projects anticipated impacts.
- **Box 9-** Describe the contributions each partner will make to the WWRA project by stating the collaborating partners' names and what they will be contributing to the project, such as manpower, equipment, matching funds, etc. This should include the partners listed in Box 3 (matching share) but may also include federal and other partners that are contributing but are not eligible to use as match. Identify if using overmatch from the consolidated payment grant.
- **Box 10-** The WWRA project timeline must include such things as: begin/end dates, milestones, quarterly or seasonal targets, etc. All WUI Grant funded project items must be completed within 5 years of award.
- **Box 11-** Sustainability must clearly describe the who, what, when, where, and why of how this WWRA project will remain effective and be sustained over time. Describe who will be responsible for administering and monitoring the project, and how the project will remain relevant and up to date, clearly describe timelines and milestones expected. If you plan on monitoring the project after the grant period ends, list that here, but please note all awarded funds and matches must be used during the 5-year grant period.

## **Application Due Dates:**

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**All applications must be submitted to the online portal by the state/island forestry agency by 5 p.m. MDT on Friday, December 20, 2024. Proposals submitted after this deadline will not be considered for the grant year.**