

Please note that the Stage 1 Application submission deadline is **March 1**.



Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative Funding Guidelines

Program Goal

The goal of the Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative is to promote the creation of environmentally and economically sustainable forest communities in the regions of the United States where the Weyerhaeuser Family's business interests originated.

Background

For the past fifteen years, the Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative of the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation has sought proposals responding to the triple needs in forest communities for forest conservation, economic development, and healing deep rifts that Federal reductions in timber cuts opened. The Initiative supported projects within specific communities that promoted, in an integrated fashion, forest ecology, the creation of jobs or businesses based on sustainable forestry, and public consensus-building on how best to go forward in these areas.

The Foundation notes that there has been real progress in many communities as consensus on integrated approaches to conservation and successful forest-based enterprise has emerged. Multiple benefits from forest restoration and sustainable silviculture have been realized. But we also note how a deep U.S. recession, changes in world markets, and continued Federal forest problems have placed obstacles in the paths of forest communities' progress. Communities have found it particularly difficult achieving business growth, new business formation, and job creation. We continue to encourage proposals in these areas.

As part of the Initiative's mission to promote environmental sustainability and financial viability in forest communities, the Foundation is seeking proposals in the area of Forest Ecosystem Services. Many vital public benefits are derived from forests, but their costs and values are either completely ignored or partly underpriced and undervalued in the wider economy and in local forested communities. Thus, we encourage proposals that aim to include forest ecosystem costs and values in market-based pricing in order to improve ecosystem benefits or halt their degradation, thereby leading to greater forest and economic sustainability.

Program Guidelines

The Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation, through its Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative, is interested in supporting organizations that work in forested landscapes to enhance the environment, the economy, and community. Projects that implement integrated approaches in these areas and enhance market valuation of forest ecosystem services are favored.

Priorities

The Foundation gives priority to projects that promote vibrant forest-based communities that address one or more of the following outcome areas:

- **Environment:** Employ sustainable forest management, conservation, and ecological restoration.
- **Economy:** Develop and encourage enterprise-based sustainable economic activities.

- **Community:** Use innovative social and locally-based business processes to meet agreed-upon environmental and economic sustainability goals.
- **Forest Ecosystem Services:** Use innovative business or policy models to better establish prices and markets for ecosystem services. (Forest ecosystem services can include, but are not restricted to, carbon sequestration, forests' role in the carbon, nutrient, and water cycles, providing habitat to support biodiversity, and providing aesthetic, educational, and other cultural services.)

Projects of potential interest include the following examples:

- Creation of local market-based jobs for in-forest activities (such as sustainable forest management, forest restoration, or sustainable silviculture).
- Development of demand for certified wood and for products made with sustainably produced forest resources (e.g., wood, boughs, biomass, and mushrooms).
- Promoting sustainable forest management alternatives to conversion of private forested land to other uses.
- Creating value in forests and forest communities through developing, producing, and marketing new forest products or forest ecosystem services.
- Advancing community-wide long-term planning for monetizing the full range of forest values, including explicit valuation of and creation of markets for forest ecosystem services.

Geographic Focus

The Foundation focuses on supporting activities in the regions in which the family's business interests originated: Idaho, Oregon, Washington, northern California, western Montana, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Organizations operating within these geographic areas are eligible to apply. Priority may be given to regional or national organizations that partner with local organizations. The Foundation may consider funding exceptional projects outside of these geographic regions.

Organization Eligibility

Organizations must be classified by the Internal Revenue Service as 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations.

Applications from an organization acting as a fiscal **sponsor** will be considered when a Fiscal Sponsorship Agreement has been signed by both parties and submitted with the application. Fiscal Sponsor's must be able to demonstrate substantial and direct fiscal and program oversight. The foundation does not accept application from fiscal agents.

Grant Size

The average grant size for the Sustainable Forests and Communities Initiative is \$25,000 or less.

Multi-Year Funding

The Foundation may support programs for up to three years but will not commit funds for the second or third year without an annual review. It is the Foundation's desire to continue funding successful programs, subject to available funds. Because programs will not be funded for more than three years, you are encouraged to plan for the long-term sustainability of the program.

Organizations requesting second or third year funding for programs approved the previous year must continue to submit a Stage 1 Application by March 1. Following the review of Stage 1 Applications, organizations invited to continue the application process must submit a Stage 2 Application by August 1 of each year.

Restrictions

The Foundation will not consider proposals in the following areas:

- Relief and rescue programs.
- Ongoing projects or general operating support for an organization.
- Programs whose purpose is to create specific media, film, photography, or books.
- Capital projects, including land acquisition or the construction of buildings.
- Grants or scholarships to individuals.
- Programs that attempt to change behavior by education of the general public.
- Camps or cultural exchange programs.
- Lobbying prohibited by the Internal Revenue Code.
- Conferences.
- Endowments.
- Start-up costs for new organizations.
- Research projects.

Outcome-Based Assessment

The Foundation has a particular interest in measurable outcomes. Applicants are asked to clearly state program goals on the application and include a plan for an outcome-based assessment of the program activities. Applicants will be required to report on the program's success by providing metrics on the qualitative and quantitative outcomes at the end of each grant period.