

# Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund (Round IV) July 2023

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*Open Space Institute*

## Application Guidance

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***Prior to applying, please visit the Focus Area Screening Tool or contact OSI Field Staff to assess whether your project lies at least partly in an Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund Focus Area. Please also review the Fund details on OSI's website, including Grant Fund Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria, and Definitions and Data Guide.***

***OSI is committed to supporting and accommodating all eligible applicants. Please reach out to OSI Field Staff if your organization needs assistance completing the application or providing required materials.***

## Organizational Information

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### Type of Organization\*

#### Choices

Land Trust  
Other Non-Profit  
Tribal Government  
Municipality

### Organization's Founding Date and Mission Statement\*

Please tell us when your organization was founded and its mission statement.

*Character Limit: 750*

### Land Trust Alliance Accreditation - for Land Trusts Only

Is your land trust accredited by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission?

#### Choices

Yes  
No

### For Land Trusts NOT Accredited

If your land trust is not accredited, please describe the plan and timetable for becoming accredited as approved by your Board of Directors, if applicable.

If your land trust does not plan to pursue accreditation, please contact OSI Field Staff prior to completing this application.

Character Limit: 300

## Project Overview

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**Note key terms used throughout this application form:**

- **Subject Property:** properties or parcel(s) for which you are requesting funds to protect.
- **Match Property:** properties or parcel(s) that are eligible to be used as match. Match eligibility is described **HERE**. [msocom 1](#)
- **Project:** all *Subject* and *Match Properties* that are included in this application.
- **Project Area:** the larger geographic area and conservation plan, if any, to which the *Project* is related.

### Project Name\*

*Note: Project name should be short and reflect the project's natural features, such as "Burnt Mountain" or "Blue River Headwaters," rather than current landowner names.*

Character Limit: 100

### Date of Application\*

Character Limit: 20

### Total Amount Requested\*

Character Limit: 20

### Geographic Area\*

State in which the majority of the Subject Property is located.

#### Choices

Alabama

Georgia

Maine

New Hampshire

North Carolina

Pennsylvania

Tennessee

Vermont

### Total Subject Property Acreage\*

Subject Property includes properties for which you are requesting an OSI grant.

Character Limit: 20

### Subject Property Acreage to be Acquired in Fee\*

If there are no acres in fee, enter zero.

Character Limit: 20

**Subject Property Acreage to be Placed Under Conservation Easement\***

If there are no acres in conservation easement, enter zero.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Total Match Property Acreage\***

If there are no Match Properties, enter zero.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Match Property Acreage to be Acquired in Fee\***

If there are no acres in fee or no Match Properties, enter zero.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Match Property Acreage to be Placed Under Conservation Easement\***

If there are no acres in conservation easement or no Match Properties, enter zero.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Total Project Acreage\***

Enter the total acreage of all Subject and Match Properties combined. If there are no Match Properties, this number is the same as Subject Property Acreage.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Estimated Project Completion Date\***

*Character Limit: 20*

**Project Budget Summary\***

Download the project budget **HERE**.

Once complete, upload below.

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

**Budget Narrative\***

*Referring to your Budget Summary Form, address each of the following:*

1. Amount and sources of funds secured;
2. Plans for raising outstanding funds; and
3. Proposed use of OSI grant funds.

*Character Limit: 3,000*

**Total Eligible Project Cost\***

Note: Please use the same number included in the budget form.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Fair Market Value of Subject Property\***

Enter estimated Fair Market Value of Subject Property(ies) to be acquired in fee and/or conservation easement.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Fair Market Value of Match Property\***

Enter estimated Fair Market Value of Match Property(ies) to be acquired in fee and/or conservation easement.

If there are no match properties, enter zero.

*Character Limit: 20*

**Total Fair Market Value of Properties\***

Enter the combined fair market value of all Subject and Match Properties.

*Character Limit: 20*

## ***Project Details***

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**Project Location\***

Provide names of town(s), county(ies), and state(s) your project is located within.

*Character Limit: 150*

**Project Summary\***

Provide a concise overview of the project that addresses the following:

1. Brief property description;
2. Acquisition partners and roles;
3. Proposed transaction structure;
4. The project's contribution to addressing climate change, based on terrestrial resilience and carbon benefits; and,
5. Proposed stewardship goals, including any planned forest restoration.

*Suggested Character Limit: 1,500*

*Character Limit: 3000*

**Project Description\***

Describe the property's natural and man-made features. Be specific and cite inventories and studies, if available. Please describe each of the following:

1. Topography and landforms - for example ridges, outcrops, cliffs, caves, and water features such as rivers, lakes, streams, and vernal pools;
2. Human impacts - such as roads, houses, farmland, timber harvests, mining impacts, bridges or culverts, archaeological, and/or historical features;

3. Dominant vegetation types and natural communities and their current conditions including any available information on forest age and health; and
4. Information on animal and plant species known to occur on the Project, including information on any rare, unusual, threatened, or endangered species.

*Suggested Character Limit: 2,000*

*Character Limit: 4,000*

***To answer the following questions about Resilience and Forest Carbon you will use The Nature Conservancy's online Resilient Land Mapping Tool and the instructions in OSI's Definitions and Data Guide.***

## Resilience\*

Follow the instructions in the **Definitions and Data Guide** to determine the overall resilience of the project. Please reach out to OSI Field Staff if you need assistance using or interpreting the data.

### Choices

Far Above Average  
Above Average  
Slightly Above Average  
Average  
Slightly Below Average  
Below Average  
Far Below Average

## Resilience Characteristics\*

Please describe features, such as landforms, scale, geology, or connectivity, that make the project resilient to climate change. Please indicate if any restoration is planned that will likely increase climate resilience.

*Suggested Character Limit: 1,000*

*Character Limit: 2,500*

## Geophysical Settings

OSI will evaluate your project for the type of Geophysical Settings it contains and whether any of the settings are considered Underrepresented Settings, as described in the **Definitions and Data Guide**.

You are welcome to provide information on Settings, but it is not required.

**Optional Question:** Following the instructions in the **Definitions and Data Guide**, determine the type and acreage of the top three Geophysical Settings and indicate if any geophysical settings are listed as Underrepresented Settings in the Guide. You may also provide any information you have available - such as the presence of plants or animal communities - that indicate the type of Geophysical Settings on the land.

*Character Limit: 1000*

### Forest Carbon: Comparison to Focus Area Average

OSI will evaluate the project's estimated "Average Forest Ecosystem Carbon per acre" for 2010 and for 2050 and the "[Potential Forest Ecosystem Carbon Sequestration \(2010-2050\)](#)". You are welcome to provide carbon data, but it is not required.

**Optional Question:** Following the instructions in the **Definitions and Data Guide**, you may determine if the 2050 carbon storage per acre values for your project are within, below, or above the average for the focus area.

*Character Limit: 1000*

### Forest Carbon: Changes in Forest Cover\*

Describe any known or expected changes in forest cover between 2010 (the year the Carbon Data was collected) and when the property will be protected. Changes could include past harvesting, planned timber harvest and/or fire, insect, or disease damage.

*Suggested Character Limit: 1,000*

*Character Limit: 2,000*

### Landscape Context\*

*Please address each question:*

Is the project near other protected land? If so, describe how the project is, will, or can be connected to conserved lands and how the project contributes to the protected landscape. Is the project part of a plan to conserve a larger landscape? If so, describe the plan and your project's role in the plan.

1. Does the project support regional migration of species northward or upslope? You may find it helpful to use the "connectivity and climate flow" data from the resilience tool or other connectivity data to describe whether the project is part of a migration corridor.

*Suggested Character Limit: 1,500*

*Character Limit: 3,000*

### Urgency and Risk\*

*Explain each of the following for each property, distinguishing between Subject and Match properties:*

1. Explain who owns the property and if they are an individual, family, estate, corporation, or another type of entity.
2. What is the type and degree of threat to the land, including poorly managed logging, risk of development and/or carbon loss due to forest conversion? Explain your answer using any relevant evidence including real estate trends in the region, whether the land is on the market, development potential of the land, and current zoning.

3. Are the mineral rights fully attached to the property, or are they severed or subject to a lease? If any mineral rights are known to be outstanding, please provide details about the nature of ownership and date of severed mineral rights, likelihood and method of mineral extraction, and

other risks posed to the project and surrounding properties.

*Suggested Character Limit: 1,500*

*Character Limit: 2,500*

### Transaction Status and Timing\*

*For each project property (subject and match), describe the status of the transaction:*

1. What is the status of negotiations? Is there a purchase agreement in place? Will the transaction be phased?
2. Status and timing for completion of all due diligence items (e.g., appraisal, survey, title, environmental assessment, mortgage subordination for easement where applicable, etc.).
3. Any other actions required prior to closing, such as subdivision approval, building demolition, environmental remediation, securing permits, or dam safety protection.
4. If awarded a grant through the Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund, is the project likely to close within 18 months of the grant award to date? If not, what might keep the project from closing in that timeframe?

*Suggested Character Limit: 2,000*

*Character Limit: 3,000*

### Land Stewardship\*

Please refer to OSI's **Stewardship and Conservation Easement Standards** before answering the following.

*Address each of the following questions for each project property:*

1. How is the land currently used and managed? Is the forest actively managed for timber?
2. What entity will own the land purchased in fee, and/or what entity will hold and monitor the conservation easement? Describe the experience these organizations have in owning conservation land and/or holding conservation easements.
3. Who will be responsible for the land's stewardship, if different from the landowner?
4. Are the future landowner's goals consistent with retention of forest carbon and climate resilience?
5. If applicable, describe your plans and timeline for developing a property stewardship plan and address how the plan will ensure protection of forest carbon and climate resilience. If you do not plan to create a property stewardship plan, please explain why.
6. Are you aware of any risks to forest health such as wildfire, insect infestations or disease? If so, will your planned stewardship address these risks to carbon loss?
7. For conservation easement projects, please upload a draft conservation easement below in the "Supporting Project Materials" section of this application. If a draft is not available, please describe the proposed terms including anticipated restrictions on subdivision and development, and any management requirements.

*Suggested Character Limit: 3,000*

*Character Limit: 5,000*

### Community Benefits\*

Please tell us about any community benefits that will arise from your project, such as recreational access, drinking water protection, flood hazard mitigation and/or benefits to overburdened or Black, Indigenous and People of Color communities, including returning land to Indigenous stewardship.

*Suggested Character Limit: 1,000*

*Character Limit: 3,000*

## Land Equity

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**In the United States, income, race, gender, abilities, and ethnic identity have an impact on access to benefits from nature. OSI is committed to better understanding who benefits from its grants, and we appreciate your help as we learn about our collective impact. We appreciate your reflection on the following questions.**

### Project Area Demographics\*

Based on your local knowledge, please describe the racial and socioeconomic demographics of the area (town, county, etc.) in which the project is located. Feel free to reference census or other data, however that is not required.

*Suggest Character Limit: 1,500*

*Character Limit: 2,500*

### Community and Climate Benefits\*

Briefly describe *who* will benefit from the land conservation project and *how* they will benefit, such as access to clean water, recreational access, cultural uses, or land return to Indigenous people.

Describe if any of these beneficiaries include members of communities historically excluded from equal access to nature's benefits.

If relevant, please also describe how the project benefits will help protect communities from the impacts of climate change (such as flood hazard reduction or heat island reduction).

*Suggested Character Limit: 1,500*

*Character Limit: 2,500*

### Land Connection\*

Are you aware of which Indigenous, Black, or other communities of color historically lived on and were connected to this land? If so, please describe these communities.

Have you reached out to these peoples or their descendants about how this project might



impact them? If so, please describe this outreach and how their responses have impacted the project's evolution or any future plans.

Are there specific ways that this project reconnects those peoples or their descendants to the land?

*Suggested Character Limit: 1,500*

*Character Limit: 2,500*

## Supporting Project Materials

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**Upload the following documents. Total proposal file size is limited to 40 MB. Keep file size to the minimum file size required for each upload. If more file space is required, please contact Yasemin Unal-Rodriguez at [yunal-rodriquez@osiny.org](mailto:yunal-rodriquez@osiny.org).**

**Please reach out to OSI Field Staff if you need assistance with any of the supporting materials requested below, including shapefiles and maps.**

### Conservation Easement

If your project includes a **Conservation Easement**, upload a copy of the draft document, if available.

*File Size Limit: 1 MB*

### Landscape Context Map

Upload a map with an aerial photo as a base that shows where the project is located relative to other protected land. Include the project parcel and match parcels (if applicable) and best available data of protected lands.

*File Size Limit: 7 MB*

**Upload two to three high-quality digital photos of the Project. Label photos with project name and note if Subject or Match Property.**

### Photo 1\*

*File Size Limit: 10 MB*

### Photo 2\*

*File Size Limit: 10 MB*

### Photo 3

*File Size Limit: 10 MB*

### Shapefiles\*

Provide shapefiles for all project parcels in a compressed zip folder. Note which parcels are Subject and which are Match. Label the folder with land trust and project name. For example: "(Your Land Trust) Burnt Mountain.zip". Do not send shapefiles of parcels that are not the subject of this application.

*File Size Limit: 5 MB*