



**OPEN SPACE  
INSTITUTE**

## **Appalachian Landscapes Protection Fund Eligibility and Evaluation Criteria (July 2023)**

**To be Eligible for a Capital Grant, projects must meet the following requirements:**

- Lie at least partly within an [ALPF Focus Area](#);
- Rank above average for Resilience. *If your project ranks below average (less than 0 SD calculated by The Nature Conservancy's Resilient Land Mapping Tool) but planned restoration is likely to increase the resilience value, please be in touch with the appropriate OSI field coordinator before applying;*
- Achieve permanent protection through fee purchase of land and/or a conservation easement;
- Be stewarded to support maintaining and increasing climate resilience and carbon storage;
- Meet or exceed OSI Stewardship and Conservation Easement (if relevant) Standards;
- Be spearheaded by an entity with the capacity and financial ability to execute the transaction and ensure long-term stewardship of the property; and,
- Be completed within 18 months of receiving notification of OSI's grant award.

**OSI evaluates Eligible Projects against the following Criteria:**

- Amount and extent of the property that ranks above average for Climate Resilience based on current conditions or, if relevant, estimated benefits of restored landcover;
- Extent and type of Underrepresented Geophysical Settings found on the property;
- Forest carbon storage potential for 2050 relative to the Focus Area average;
- Extent, status and condition of plant and animal species and natural communities found on the property;
- Role the project plays in facilitating long-range movement of plants and animals;
- Threat of conversion from forest and/or threat of significant forest carbon loss including through mineral extraction, poor forest management, development, or other threats;
- Management intent and effectiveness of the stewardship plan for the long-term conservation or enhancement of the property's climate resilience attributes and carbon storage;
- Ability to meet and/or exceed OSI's financial match preference; and,
- Community benefits of the project, such as flood hazard mitigation, drinking water protection, recreational access, or benefit to overburdened, Black, Indigenous and People of Color or economically underserved communities, including returning the land to Indigenous stewardship.