

UAES Public Lands Initiative Grant Program

2025 General Guidelines

Background and Purpose

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, in partnership with the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, are pleased to announce a request for proposals (RFP) in Public Lands Research and Management. This RFP is funded through the USU Public Lands Initiative, a legislative appropriation to the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station.

Proposals must focus on at least one of the following topics:

- Management of public lands
- Evaluation of restoration projects
- Recreation planning
- Fire ecology and management
- Animal and plant species conservation
- Animal movement
- Economics of public land use
- Creative tools to integrate the management of private, state and federal lands in Utah

Proposals that address issues identified in the Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air's Reports to the Governor and Utah Legislature are especially encouraged (<https://www.usu.edu/ilwa/files/report-2023.pdf>).

All successful projects must have a clear application for their outcomes, such as new assessment tools for land managers, programs to assess the economic value of management plans, recreation management plans for specific locations, or programs to assess the effectiveness of land restoration efforts. Successful projects will effectively demonstrate that the application of project findings can yield a significant impact within a reasonably short period of time.

Eligibility Criteria

- Project Directors (PDs) must be USU employees with faculty appointments.

Timeline

- Proposals must be submitted electronically before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday March 21, 2025**, without exception.
- Notification of awards following review and selection will be provided to the applicant and their department head approximately one month after the submission deadline.

General Guidelines

- The maximum request must not exceed \$60,000 for the entire grant period.
- The timeline for completion may not exceed 24 months.
- A 1:1 match from external partners such as a city/town, conservation district, state or federal agency, private industry, non-governmental organization, etc. The match can be a combination of in-kind and/or cash. If you need assistance identifying possible opportunities or connecting with the appropriate people in an agency, industry, or NGO, you are invited to contact Anna McEntire (anna.mcentire@usu.edu), Associate Director of USU's Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air.
- The required cover page and budget form are posted at <https://caas.usu.edu/uacs/internal-resources/uacs-grant-support>.

Application

Formatting: 12-point font, with one-inch margins on all sides. Figures and tables may use a reasonably smaller font size, but generally no less than a 10-point font.

Submission: Proposals are due before 5:00 p.m. on **Friday March 21, 2025**, without exception. Submit your application electronically at <https://caas.usu.edu/uaes/internal-resources/uaes-grant-support> as a single PDF document assembled in the following order:

1. Cover Page (PDF form)

2. Project summary or abstract (1 page)

- a. Provide a *non-technical* project summary of no more than 400 words.

3. Project Narrative (5 pages)

- a. A clear project justification, scope of work, description of anticipated impact(s), including an estimated time frame for when this impact can be realized, and description of how project outcomes will enhance public lands management and/or policy.

4. References (No page limit)

5. Budget form (Excel spreadsheet)

- a. As explained, all requested funds must have a 1:1 match from external partners.
- b. Funds may not be used to augment faculty base salaries or cover summer salaries. Funds may only be applied to non-tenure track faculty who are in soft-money positions or who do not have a research component in their role statement (signed and in effect as of January 1, 2025).
- c. Benefits must be calculated at 45.5% for contract employees, 8.0% for payroll personnel (including unenrolled students during summer months), and 0.8% for enrolled undergraduate and graduate students, plus \$161.67 per month for the university's portion of graduate student medical insurance (see [current rates](#)).
- d. Requests for graduate student support must include fringe benefits at the appropriate rate and a total stipend of at least \$24,000 per year.
- a. Tuition and fees are not allowable expenses because they are not considered a research related expense.
- b. Travel must be for conducting research and justifiable as critical to the project. Travel costs for research conferences are not allowable expenses.
- c. Requests for capital equipment (equipment costing \$5,000 or more) may include shipping costs.
- d. If selected for an award, budget deviations of more than 10% must receive prior written approval from the Associate Director of the UAES.

6. Budget Justification (No page limit)

- a. Provide justification for each of the expenses listed in the budget.
- b. Explain the source of the 1:1 match.

7. Biosketch for the Project Director (4 pages)

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit and potential impacts on public lands management and ranked by a Public Lands Initiative Advisory Board.

Funding decisions will be made by the deans of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and

Quinney College of Natural Resources. The deans reserve the right to fund or not fund recommended projects as well as the right to fund projects at full or partial levels depending on the appropriateness of the budget and budget justification.

Questions

If you have questions about the Public Lands Initiative Grant Program or how to submit a grant proposal, please contact Cody Bills, CAAS Proposal Specialist (email: cody.bills@usu.edu; phone: 435-797-1929).