The concept of the Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR) Program was developed over a decade ago by state foresters. They agreed to reallocate 15% of the federal dollars their agencies received annually through four core programs (Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health-Cooperative Lands, and State Fire Assistance) to a new competitive grant program, now called LSR.

LSR was developed to provide state forestry agencies with the funding flexibility necessary to implement their Forest Action Plans. All 59 Forest Action Plans, short for "State Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy," were completed in 2010, reviewed in 2015, and comprehensively revised in 2020 by all 50 states, five U.S. territories, three freely associated states, and the District of Columbia.

These assessments and strategies provides information for prioritizing forest management on regional and national scales. LSR projects dedicate support to only the top national priorities identified in these comprehensive plans.

Most forests in the U.S. are privately owned, but forest threats—like wildfire, pests, and disease—know no bounds. They don't respect jurisdictions and they definitely don't stop at property lines. This means forest management can't start and stop along artificial boundaries: it must be done at a landscape scale in order to protect America's forests and the communities that depend on them.

The nation's 59 state foresters recommend appropriating the Landscape Scale Restoration Program $20 million for FY 2024.

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