1.   We are planning to integrate a thinning project into our grant request of an overstocked third growth forest. Can you clarify what would qualify as recycling into a higher use? Does the lumber need to be marketable? Can weed trees of concern, not state listed as class, a, b and c, be included for removal?

Can you clarify what would qualify as recycling into a higher use?

A higher use should be considered anything more useful or valuable than wood chips or firewood. Using some parts of a tree for wood chips or firewood is fine but "higher use" typically means dimensional lumber or finished wood products such as furniture, utensils, plates or bowls, etc.

Does the lumber need to be marketable?

The lumber doesn't need to be marketable in the traditional sense. Urban wood utilization projects can also entail those that preserve the wood's uniqueness in the process, for example making furniture with wood that wasn't good for timber.

2.   Can weed trees of concern, not state listed as class, a, b and c, be included for removal?

Yes, any trees that are considered invasive species can be included for removal.

3.   Does the planting plan also need to include understory plantings?

The planting plan does not need to include understory vegetation. You can spend up to 10% of the project value on understory vegetation, even if you have matching funds. Remember that matching funds are not required, and it won't impact your scoring, but it may be a way for applicants to tell the full story of their application if they do have funding from other sources that's relevant to their project.

If we include a thinning project in our grant application, can we sell the timber, or does the grant prohibit timber sales?

It is discouraged due to burdensome administrative hurdles but not impossible. Grant activities that generate revenue need to be approved on a case-by-case basis with DNR's grant manager and the USDA Forest Service, if applicable.

4.   If we received a Federal USFS IRA grant this year, can we still apply for the DNR Community Forestry Assistance Grant?

Yes.

5.   Can city governments submit applications for multiple projects or are cities limited to one application as an entity?

While we do allow multiple projects under one application, we encourage folks to limit each application to one type of project. Applicants can apply for multiple projects, but because we ask you to describe your project in each different question in the application form it could be difficult. For example, if you have 3 or 4 unique components, we're essentially asking you to describe each piece of the question for each component of your project and it would need to fit in the space available.

If you are, say, a larger organization and you know that you've got more need than our maximum dollar amounts available, you can apply for separate projects under separate applications. The projects can be complementary, but I would urge you not to make them contingent on one another. The proposal needs to stand alone and have its own start and end point with clearly defined deliverables so that when the project is complete, there's a clear sense of what that means and the values gained as a result of that project.

6.   Is there a maximum allowable percentage of our budget that can be for indirect costs? We are applying as the lead of a network, which will come with a lot of project management/admin services on our organization's part.

Yes. The cap is 10%.

7.   After reading through the RFP, will the application be in written documents and budgets that get submitted in the portal, will we be filling out a website, or a mix of both?

The application form itself is a document that you need to fill out. It's a Word document that you need to complete and then when it comes time to submittal, you will follow the link in the request for applications that will take you to a web page that's run by Smartsheet. In Smartsheet you'll upload a PDF copy of the application that you're submitting, and we also ask you to enter the same information that is on the cover page of your application into separate little fields on that on that digital form.

It is this way so that when your proposal gets submitted as a PDF those details go with your application out to the various reviewers. It is duplicate work on the applicant's end, but it allows us to filter and sort the applications to get an idea of who has applied, what folks are applying for, how much funding is requested and the locations.

8.   If my project qualifies for state funding but not federal funding through this grant, does that impact my max or min $ amount?

Yes, if you are only eligible for state funding, that means you are only eligible for the period of performance that runs through 2025, June 1st, 2025.

9.   Would a project that supports climate change education in K-12 classrooms around Tree Canopy preservation be an eligible activity under this grant?

Yes. We can't necessarily say how to write the proposal, if the project focus is on trees and urban forestry and it just happens to be through the lens of climate change, that's fine. If the project is about climate change and only lightly touches on trees in urban forestry, that's still eligible, but may not be as competitive. Make sure the project proposal ties back to the mission and purpose of our program.

10. We have a new mini-forest project that in its first phase will require several months of master planning with the owner of the publicly accessible land. Within the 100+ acre parcel, we don't know where exactly the 1-acre project will be and/or whether it will be spread over 1-3 locations within. The planting would proceed in Fall 2024 or Spring 2025. Is the location uncertainty a problem for our grant application?

In the past we funded a project that knew the general location of the work and because it had an environmental justice component to it, they went door to door asking residents if they wanted to plant a tree. They just knew the general area going in, determined those locations through the course of the project and then made sure that was vetted with us before they finally executed those plantings. While this project sounds similar, it also sounds like natural area restoration planting rather than a tree in front of someone's house.

To the extent that you can, determine your planting location ahead of time where it's not contingent on public outreach. It would make sense to not have the location defined if the project scope entails outreach, or something like an ecological assessment, to then determine the locations. If an application doesn't define the location and it's not part of the scope to find the proper locations, contingent upon something like outreach or assessments, the application would lack confidence.

11. Are the grants limited to acreage inside city limits?
 No.

12. Would applying for a grant for a mobile incinerator to turn big leaf maple infected with sooty bark disease into biochar, be something that might be approved?

Purchasing an incinerator directly for yourself is not allowable. It is acceptable if it is a contractual expense while working with a private vendor who will provide that equipment, or if you're renting it.

13. The proposal form says to give the location (City). As a regional organization, we may want to conduct the project in 2 different cities (neighboring cities in the same MSA). We're waiting for a Needs Assessment to be completed in Spring 2024. Can we enter the names of both cities on the form?

Yes; and you can name the metropolitan statistical area, assuming that's what MSA stands for.

14. We currently have a vacancy in our arborist/Urban Forestry Planner. Will this impact our eligibility? We have a contract with a consultant for our needs at the moment.

No. What you tell us in your proposal is what deliverables you're making a commitment to and your commitment to be able to implement the work. As long as you communicate what you need and that you've got the capacity to implement the project, then grant reviewers will be able evaluate the proposal based on their impressions of your ability to complete the project.

15. Can you explain how projects qualify for the state and/or the federal funding?
 There's a cut and dry answer, and there's a more nuanced answer to this question.

The initial guidance from the Forest Service that is that our federal funding, which is 5 of the 7 million, could only be spent within disadvantaged communities, or the areas in gray on the federal screening tool. The areas outside the gray are eligible for state funding.

Since publishing the RFA there has been push back from other states. The Forest Service has indicated that they may be open to spending federal money in other areas that are outside that as long as they are adjacent, and as long as they are an area where there's been demonstrated need. You can use the Environmental Health Disparities Map and the Tree Equity Map to make a case for environmental justice need in your project area. You may see some overlap with the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool as well.

With a project of this nature we reserve the right to do one of two things on the back end. One is either we petition the Forest Service to say we would like to spend federal funding on the full scope of this project and not just in these areas because we feel that they have made a successful case that the greater project area is an area of need, per the intent of the federal funding. Or we can fund a project in component parts. We would fund part of the project with state funding first. You would have to implement the first part of your project in the area that's eligible for state funding, because that funding expires sooner with a commitment to follow up with a second agreement that is just for federal funding to continue the remainder of the work in the areas that are covered by the climate and economic justice screening tool.

We will try to figure out how to fund good projects with a combination of that funding or with the petition to the Forest Service, just tell us what you need.

16. There is a potential for us to have additional internal funding for our project, but we will not know this until after the January 8 deadline. Should we propose two funding scenarios - one with internal funding and one without?

Submitting a single budget is best because everyone else is only going to be submitting a single budget. It is not fair to other applicants. Make sure your project is self-contained, and that your budgets are well thought-out within the resources you've identified.

17. Do you have any cost estimating tools available or suggestions on how best to estimate if we are unable to obtain estimates from contractors by January? (One part of our project is focused on deferred maintenance - removals, replacements, pruning, soil care, root health, etc.) Try using https://mrscrosters.org/ for cost estimates.

Applicants may need to do research to figure out what their costs will be. You can talk to contractors about what those costs might be like. Try to talk to other communities that they're

familiar with or have worked with before to see if they have any estimates. For example, if you're a nonprofit looking for these numbers, it's likely that the municipality has already had a contract out for tree work and you might be able to get some numbers from that local contract about particular costs like pruning trees of a given size, planting a tree or taking a tree down based on its diameter, etc.

18. Would hiring contractors to water newly planted trees be something that might get approved?

Yes, hiring contractors is an eligible cost if the service that you're getting from them is directly related to a deliverable in your project that is related to urban and community forestry.

19. When writing a tree Management and inventory plan would the cost of removing hazardous trees be acceptable to include in plan?

Yes, but this borders on having multiple project elements that could theoretically be separate projects. If the bulk of the funding is going towards an inventory in a management plan that may cost less than what you think you can apply for and you want to add some hazardous tree removals, you need to make sure that those things are tied together. It can't be an inventory management plan in one place and a random tree removal somewhere else. How are the different elements related? Tell us that story.

20. How about locations in both Eastern Washington and Western Washington with two different local jurisdictions, with a lead by a non-profit. Does this qualify as one project? The focus would be on a stewardship program that provides tree restoration projects on city park lands.

This sounds like one project.

21. I direct a nonprofit. One of our main projects is replacing nonnative and invasive trees with native ones. Is this something that could qualify? Would partnering with our city's parks and rec, disqualify us?

Yes, this project would qualify, and partnerships are great.

22. The RFA explains a requirement that all projects must be located on public property or be open to public access. If our project (which includes public outreach, interpretation, and multi-media as part of a larger exhibit) takes place on a site that requires paid admission to access the project deliverables, is our project still eligible?

Yes, this is eligible. You'll need to make the case for it and explain things like what it looks like, and how many people it serves, etc.

23. Are there any restrictions to the type of trees that can be planted for restorative projects?

No, but obviously specifying an invasive species would be an issue. There are no limitations on what types of trees you could plant, so long as they're site appropriate.

24. Could this grant funding be used to update our City's Urban Forestry Plan?

Yes.

25. For a school gardening project - would the purchase of infrastructure be eligible - like shed, gardening tools, metal signs, watering tank/ piping to the specific location? what about a stipend so a teacher/staff can attend afterschool club activities?

Stipends are eligible costs. Small supplies such as small hand tools and gloves and things of that nature we consider supplies. Those are all eligible when it comes to what was described as infrastructure and the cap is $500. A garden shed isn't necessarily a permanent structure, but if it has that feel of permanence, then that's not considered an eligible cost and would be considered a capital investment at that point.

For example, if the shed cost $1000 and you requested $500 from us and you were putting up $500 from another source, it would still be questionable because the item has a value greater than $500.00. We can only evaluate what you put on your application.

26. One of the major concerns in the Columbia River Gorge, and I'd imagine other areas of the State, is forest fires. We've been working with our local PUD on tree trimming and pruning but their go to is often "cut the tree down". Would a Primary Power Undergrounding Plan (to avoid these removals) be an eligible project? An Undergrounding Plan would be a plan to identify primary power locations and opportunities and costs to get the overhead power underground. It would not be for the construction to do the undergrounding effort itself.

The undergrounding itself would not be eligible, but a plan of that nature is an eligible cost so long as you tie it back to being an urban forestry project and not a utilities project. It's obviously going to be both, but your application needs to be clear that this is addressing an urban forestry issue, not a utilities issue.

27. We would apply as the primary and work with subcontractors to complete tasks that hit multiple activity categories, e.g., career training and tree planting. Is the limit on indirect costs, of 10%, measured as the total of all combined indirect costs (i.e., ours and the sub's)?

No, the 10% indirect is just your indirect as an applicant. If you issue a contract with another company and their bid includes a line item for indirect like that's between you and that contractor. It's not cumulative if you know what the overhead costs are for your contractors, you're not obligated to report that to us. If you know how much it's going to cost to plant, for example, 150 trees and your contractor submits a bid, a portion of that may include their overhead. That's just part of your cost to complete that particular activity or that particular

deliverable and the 10% only applies to you as the applicant.

28. Could the funding go towards a full-time employee focused on tree maintenance, planting, etc.? And would a maintenance plan need to accompany the request for staff funding or just a job description with their duties suffice?

 Our funding is not intended to go to support the cost of existing staff. We can pay for staff time for nonprofit staff, but that's the only staff that we can pay staff time for existing positions on.

 For example, if you were going to dedicate 50% of your associate planners time to implementing this project and you want grant funds to reimburse that 50% of their salary, that would not be eligible. However, we will cover workforce development, like either interns or seasonal positions or term limited positions that are that are dedicated to the project.
 Another example: let's say you're eligible for the $350,000 over a 3-year term period and to execute that project you want to bring someone on to implement it, that is an eligible cost as a public entity. As a public entity or a nonprofit if you want to hire someone to come in specifically and run that project for you, that's totally fine, but we're not supplementing the cost that would existing public staff member.

29. For specific activities such as herbicide application, should we use city park staff (bill for them), or should we budget contractors?

 The funds are not to supplement the staff time and salary for existing public employees. Hiring contractors or seasonal staff that had their pesticide applicators license to do that work is certainly a lot easier to navigate in the sort of like the budgeting and the scoping process.

30. Could this funding go to a (new position) for a city arborist dedicated to implementing the city's master growth plan?

 If the city already has the master growth plan in place and they just need a staff person to implement it, then that would be considered hiring special staff dedicated to implementing that plan and would be an eligible cost. Typically, it would be hiring someone to create an urban forestry plan internally, where they would be dedicated to drafting that plan, doing the research on it, figuring out how it's going to be written, running it through public feedback sessions, etc. This is an eligible cost and when the DNR funding term ends you'd need to find another source of funding to keep the position going.

31. Would hiring contractors to remove hazard trees around high voltage be something that would maybe be approved, if our in-house staff not qualified to do so?

 Yes, once again hiring contractors to accomplish urban forestry work is almost always going to be an eligible cost. It's hard to imagine a scenario where you have an urban forestry activity and deliverable and you need to get it accomplished and you can't do it without assistance from a private third-party contractor. Contractor work is everything from actual tree work, pruning, planting, removal, etc., and it could also include landscape architecture plans, or it could include graphic designs for educational materials, facilitation, etc. Any contractor with a special skill that

you're hiring to accomplish an activity that's in your project is going to be an eligible cost.

32. How detailed does the budget need to be when considering subs? Do we need to provide a line-item breakdown of the sub? E.g., would we need to break out the sub's staff time and materials?

It's nice to have the breakdown but not necessary to break it down all the way to the penny amount. Focus on breaking down the cost reasonably to help tell the story and progression of your project.

33. For those of us new to grant writing - any samples that could be reviewed to get a sense of what a winning proposal can look like?

No, sorry, we don't have sample proposals. What a winning proposal looks like is a wild card given how much money we have available right now and given the fact that there are several options and variability depending on your geographic location, and the number of years that you're applying for funding, and how much funding that might be.

A winning proposal has a widely variable look in this grant cycle because $7 million is available and we've only ever generated $1 million in demand, so we may have a second tier of proposals that aren't quite up to par compared to others, but we'll see if we can work with them. We may have something like a pre-agreement meeting to take what you have given us in your proposal and translate it into a scope of work that will work for our procurement staff, essentially. We have used that opportunity to "massage" the project a little bit to make sure the scope of work gets within the boundaries of what we're capable of providing as a funding agency.

There are no boxes to check off since you're writing a story about your project in the proposal, about how it meets the need in your community, about how the community is being engaged and involved, how it addresses an urban forestry issue. We then evaluate that against the other proposals, which depends on the overall quality of the pool and isn't something we can predict. We also evaluate based on and how much money we have.

It could be where we have a lot of impressive projects with excellent proposals, and that would make the pool more competitive overall. Inversely, if most of the proposals are so-so, where we're wishing things were done a little bit differently or we wish parts were written a little stronger, that would mean more opportunity to get funded.

34. Could this funding go toward paying contracted guides to connect community members to existing urban forests--guiding nature-connection activities, teaching about health benefits, and providing access points for connecting to nature, etc.?

Yes, that would be paying a third-party contractor to accomplish urban forestry activities for the overall project.

35. Is there a required local grant match amount?

 No. Providing match does not impact your ability to be scored. We give people the opportunity to provide a match if it helps tell a broader story about their project if they want to include that, but it doesn't mean that they're more likely to get funded. If you have no match for your project because you're a smaller organization and you don't have the resources to provide match, then you don't have to put anything in the match column and that won't hurt you in the grant application review process.

36. Please specify what kinds of events are included with "planning and implementation of community events.

 Events should be related to urban forestry activities.

37. Please specify what kind of "engagement" is included with the RFA's description of engagement with local jurisdictions, communities of color, and low-income residents.

 When we first started focusing on equity in our grants, we wrote in the list of eligible activities and included this chunk of activities pertaining to community engagement. You could use the funds to strike up a conversation between the local jurisdiction and the residents who live there, hire a facilitator to come in, rent some meeting space to do it, and then start a conversation about what is needed in the community. The takeaway would be learning what the things are that community members are concerned about and how can urban forestry be a tool to help meet the needs they have. I don't think anyone has ever taken us up on that.

 Hiring contractors to assist you in community engagement is an eligible cost. Neighborhood tree stewards do additional outreach like door knocking, tabling events, publishing door hangers, mail inserts or flyers. There are many types of engagement activities. The intent is that you are accomplishing some urban forestry work, by starting the process with a community to ask what they are concerned with. If the response is not related to urban forestry, then we couldn't have predicted the outcome.

As long as there are some assurances that it's being framed in the right way so that you know you're going to bring the conversation back to connectedness to natural areas, tree canopy cover, ecosystem services, urban heat islands- all those things that are in the realm of concern of urban forestry, that's the intent.

38. We plant mostly shrubs and small plants that might not count as "tree canopy." How would that pertain to "Establishing new trees in low canopy areas."

If the area in which you're planting has low tree canopy and then planting mostly shrubs and understory vegetation doesn't pertain to establishing trees. Understory vegetation can be funded with grant dollars up to 10% of the entire project's monetary value (expenses incurred to implement) because they are complementary to establishing trees within natural or developed

landscapes.

39. Can you elaborate on the type of plantings that would be eligible to plant along streams for restoration and cooling?

In years past our grants have had minimum sizing requirements for trees to be planted. Recent conversations with our Forest Service partners indicate that we can pay for seedlings. When it comes to stream restoration events, we can pay for any of the appropriate plant materials that would be required for that type of work.

40. Can you attach the RFP in a link in the chat?

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/rp_urban_rfa_community_forestry_assistant_grant.pdf

41. I read that restoration projects can include shrubs and groundcovers, not to exceed 10% of total project value. Is this 10% of the grant proposal, or just 10% of the project budget (this grant proposal would include education as well)

The 10% pertains to the overall budget, so if you're leveraging funds from other sources and including that in your project, then you could steer 10% of that overall value into your grant request.

42. Can urban forestry project work connected to heat island mitigation within communities being disproportionately impacted be an allowable activity? The communities may be in the gray area of the map but they may also be outside of that area.

Yes. Urban heat island is a very current and relevant issue that communities are concerned with. Urban forestry can be a positive force through protection of existing trees and planting new ones to mitigate urban heat islands, or to plant new trees to create local climate refuges within neighborhoods. We are encouraging people to apply for what they need regardless of their alignment with the disadvantaged community boundaries (gray area).

43. I'm not sure how to account for time in the Management Proposal Form. For one of the projects we're considering our staff are mostly volunteers, although they do have the necessary qualifications and experience. Should we give an estimated total number of hours as the "estimated time on project", or do you want hours per week or month?

We're looking for two things related to this question. In the application form, we want to know what your project timeline is, and we want to know what's in your project budget. It's up to you to figure out the resources that you have available according to the way that you want to execute, and the amount of time it will take to do so. A reasonable or conservative estimate of volunteer time and value is appropriate and acceptable. Volunteer rates are published in the RFA.

If it's mostly going to be qualified volunteers that are doing the heavy lifting to write a plan, for example, then you can either use the volunteer rate, or an individual's regular hourly/billable rate if they are volunteering in their professional capacity. Using the same example, it's like a consultant who has written similar plans before and on your project they're volunteering their time and services to write one for free. They can list the value of their time as their regular billable rate as a volunteer, like an in-kind cost.

It's up to you as the applicant to figure out how long that process is going to take and how much it's going to cost by whatever mechanisms you're using to get that money spent for that purpose. You'll want to detail that in your budget, provide the timeline in your narrative, and summarize that on the Management Proposal Form.

44. What considerations should we have if we want to include training and employment objectives for youth interns?

We haven't done much of this before so considerations could be a wide swath. We need you to tell us where these youth are being recruited from, why they should want to be involved in your project and how you are going to compensate them. Is it going to be with a stipend? And if it is, then there needs to be a form of communication. Showing that stipends were paid is one of the deliverables. This could be done via a check, but sometimes people don't have a bank account, especially if they are under 18. They may not be able to cash a check and you'll have to figure that out. You may need to pay them in cash and have them sign an affidavit or something like that, that states the transfer occurred for the work done. For example, "I, so and so, have paid this much to this person," then you both sign and verify that the amount was transferred.

If you're successfully funded, you've have to provide evidence that the work was completed or that the stipend was paid.

45. How would the DNR like to see partner's represented in the proposal? In this situation, a non-profit is the lead and city parks are the land managers. Should we use exhibit to the application, including letters of supports, or scopes of work? What verification would the DNR want to see in place?

The primary place to describe this is in your proposal narrative and you'll find the space in the first few questions. You'll have a chance to describe your partnerships and then in another section you can describe the activities of your partnerships. When you get to your budget you can share how your partners are contributing to the project, to tell the story. When it comes to letters of support, those are not scored and they're optional. While letters of support are not required, they may help deepen a grant reviewer's understanding of the project, and they could also confuse things. If it would be slightly disconnected from the proposal to include a letter of support then it wouldn't make sense to. The primary place to describe your partnerships is in the narrative and it's up to you to decide if it's helpful to include letters of support. If you're concerned about how they will be interpreted, then don't include them.

46. Our town has a tree code we'd like to revise. I see that tree ordinance and policy development is an eligible expense on public tree maintenance. But would work to revise the

town's ordinances and tree code, that also applies to private property, be eligible? What about establishing a city-wide tree canopy cover goal?

The reason any ordinance exists is for public benefit. All tree ordinances are public tree ordinances. For example, a tree protection ordinance would be an eligible cost. It might sound like semantics in the RFA, but tree codes benefit the public. It might pertain to the development process, but that development process is a public process, even if it's pertaining to private land.

The thing to keep in mind is that anytime a jurisdiction is working on a new ordinance, there has to be a public engagement process. So if you're comfortable as an organization making amendments to, say, a tree protection ordinance that affects trees in the development process on private property, you still need a public engagement process. Whether or not we fund you, if you don't have a public process where people get to weigh in on what that looks like, and you just write an ordinance and try to get it passed, that's when people are going to come out of the woodwork and share their opinions. This is the same for management plans.

Also, keep in mind that oftentimes these things don't become real until they are voted on and officially adopted by the City Council, and we do not hold you to that for reimbursement of the work. We want to see that the plan was written, that the draft ordinances are in place, if your City Council doesn't vote to approve it, there's no way we could control that. We don't withhold payment for something that hasn't been adopted by Council.

48. Is irrigation to serve street trees allowable as part of the proposal? We are in an arid, eastern WA region.

Yes, just keep in mind that like that $500.00 cap on what's considered like a piece of inventory of all equipment or a piece of permanent equipment. It may depend on how much irrigation you're proposing. For example if you need a larger pump that costs more than $500, that won't work for the grant requirements. But, you could pay for the pump from another funding source and then use the grant funds for the components and less expensive parts. If it's a small pump or you're tapping into an existing system that already has a pump, all of that stuff is eligible because it supports the the cost of of ensuring the tree gets established and survives.

49. Would planting in a business or industrial park be allowed under this grant?

We're assuming that this business park or industrial park, or the land has public right of way. If we're talking about the public right of way, it's absolutely available. If the land is privately owned, it has to be publicly accessible. Define if it is a business park or an industrial park, and make the case for how the public, like a kid or other populations will be using the space. Make the case for why this particular location is the best place for investment on behalf of your entire community.

50. Can we partner with a 501(c)(7) organization that owns a large proportion of the land in our town? (This organization is amenable to urban forestry work.)

501(c)(7) organizations are eligible partners, but they are not eligible applicants. If they own that property but it's publicly accessible, then doing work on that property is acceptable. You just have to be clear in your application that if the property the project happens on is not under your control as an organization, you have to get permission from that organization to do work there and to implement this project.

51. Please tell us more about "the volunteer rate" in our estimated project costs, as you mentioned a few minutes ago. Is there a table of such rates that you would want us to reference? Or some other standard or reference?

The volunteer rate is published in the request for applications on the budget page. The only time you can deviate from that volunteer rate is if you are getting pro bono services from someone in their professional capacity. If a facilitator or a graphic designer lives in your community and has a way to plug into your project in their professional capacity as a facilitator, as a graphic designer, then whatever their salary and benefits are or their billable rate, can be their volunteer rate. But, if you've got a graphic designer or a facilitator, or consulting arborist or whoever, and you're asking them to do work that's not within their professional scope as a volunteer, then they get the regular volunteer right that anyone else would get. Even kids get a volunteer rate, and it is the same as it would be for adults. For example, if a kid can wield a shovel, then they get the adult volunteer rate.

52. For completing Exhibit B: we are applying as the lead of a network that will include multiple groups and projects. There will be a 'lead' from each of these sub-partner groups. Do these individuals need to be listed in the Project Management and Staff Qualifications sections, or do you only need this information from us (the actual applicant). To clarify: those individuals will be the ones actually leading the projects and doing the work, but we will be the grantee. If they are to be included, there will be more people than can be listed on the 3 lines allotted- should we complete this as an attachment or include their names in the narrative?

Exhibit B applies to the applicant directly and nobody else.

53. Is there a list posted with past successful grant applicants and projects?

There is a map on our website that shows where you can click on and see the locations of past funded grant projects. We also publish those in our Tree Link newsletter after projects are selected for funding. Go to dnrtreelink.wordpress.com and do a search for grants. You'll be able to view grant recipients from each year.

54. We want to get trees planted in a location in Pasco designated as disadvantaged that is classified as orange by census track. Can DNR can help us locate an agency that can recommend a specific area of highest need? For example, the Health District?

Due diligence on your part as an applicant as you're pulling this project together is to reach out to other organizations and ask those questions. If they have a broader geographic area that

they know meets the qualifications or meets the minimum criteria, but they're trying to refine within that space where they go to put these trees in the ground. You can do some of that work before submitting your application. Wanting to engage with the community to find out where the most appropriate locations are could also be part of the application.

Some projects that we funded in the past said they were going to do neighborhood outreach and say we're here to target this particular neighborhood, but we want to be responsive to thelocal needs. You don't have to have every last detail nailed down in your proposal, but that's your storytelling needs to describe what the need is and what your approach to the project is.

59. I know you've talked before about the grey areas on the maps for federal funding and what might be fundable outside of such areas. If it happens to score only moderately (i.e. 5 or 6) in such maps, would it have a reasonable chance to be funded?

We can fund projects with a combination of state and federal funding, and so the health disparity score of those 9's and 10's. That's been intentionally deemphasized in this grant round and there's a couple reasons why.

One reason is because it applies to both our state and federal funding. We received 6 million in federal funding and 6 million in state funding. Only two million of the state funding is in this grant cycle, and of the four million of state funding left, we have an opportunity to put a lot of that into those highly disadvantaged or impacted communities that rank 9 and 10 directly with interagency agreements, noncompetitively, that are separate from this. Since the obligation for us to spend 50% of our dollars in those areas applies, whether it's in the grant or outside of the grant, we're already compensating for that a bit.

The second thing is is that there are a lot of areas that are 9 and 10 scoring census tracks, according to health disparities map that do overlap with the federal screening tool. After we receive all the applications we'll have to figure out where that overlap is, and how much money is accounted for that. Then, knowing that we don't have to award all of the federal funding this year, especially if we don't get the number of applications to do it, we have an opportunity to make changes next year to make sure that we get the remaining balance awarded to those communities that rank a 9 or 10.

The presence or absence of your project within or outside of those federally disadvantaged areas probably has the largest impact on this as an applicant because most of the funding is federal and there are a lot of areas that are covered in gray that are eligible for that funding. If you consider that, plus the fact that a handful of Washington cities really received hundreds of thousands or millions of dollars from the Federal IRA awards, it's possible that not all of those communities are going to be applying for our grants. Between all the money that's swirling around that's at stake, we're not that concerned about meeting our state's obligation to spend 50% of our resources and these 9 and 10 census tracts.

By all means, just apply for what you need and if we like your project, if it scores well and we want to fund it, we'll do our best to figure that out because we want to make sure that we're funding good projects.

60. Is stewardship training limited to education about trees or can it include shrubs and understory parts of the forest?

Yes, it can. While our focus in urban forestry is primarily on trees, we tend to measure tree canopy cover, not necessarily vegetation density although the understory shrubs are part of the urban forest. For example, if you had an educational project that was 100% about shrubs and understory vegetation, that could probably still be eligible if it's part of a larger curriculum. Include information about the forest, the shrubs, the water cycle, and make sure the overall things hangs together as a project that benefits the community and the people that live there through the lens of urban forestry.

61. Is this the last video of your series? Or is there any other planned?

Yes, this is the last Q&A session, and there are no more planned webinars or application conferences. We can't discuss applications or project scopes, but we are available for eligibility questions via email.

62. Is there a minimum eligible area of impact for a project?

No.

63. How about helping us find someone to interpret satellite imagery?

You're going to have to go to a contractor that has experience with that and there are several who can help with that.

64. Paying a new contract staff member to remove invasive English ivy from trees in local public parks — potentially coverable?

Yep, you're hiring a contractor to achieve an urban forestry activity or deliverable.

65. If you are teaching a group of students at a school, where 75% of the students live in a gray area, but the project would be on their school grounds which is not located in the gray area. Would this project be eligible for federal funding?

You'd have to make that call and in your application you'd make the case that your project is focused on environmental justice, targeting those folks in your school community of greatest need. We could vouch for the project when bringing it forward to the Forest Service and explain the need even though it's outside the boundary area. Or we may do a combination of state and federal funding.