USDA Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USFS Eastern Region Cohesive Fire Strategy 2025 Request for Applications

U.S. Forest Service
Eastern Region State, Private & Tribal Forestry
Fire & Aviation Management, Cooperative Fire Program

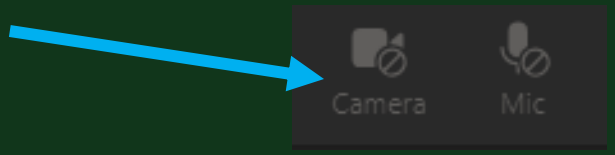
Note: We are recording this session!

Audio and Webcam

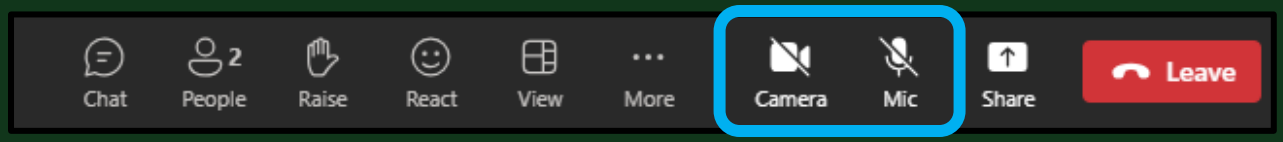


For audio you can listen and speak through the computer or by phone.

Note: Right now, microphones are muted, and webcams are disabled.



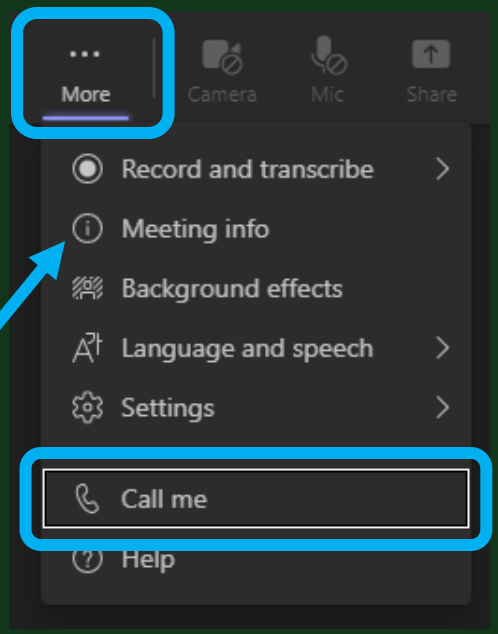
We'll enable them during the Q&A.



During the Q&A, when not speaking:
Please keep your mic./phone muted and webcam off.

If audio is choppy (bandwidth limited), you can switch to phone audio:

1. Select the “More Actions” menu (…)
2. Select “Call Me”
3. Enter your phone number and select “Call Me”
4. Answer your phone!

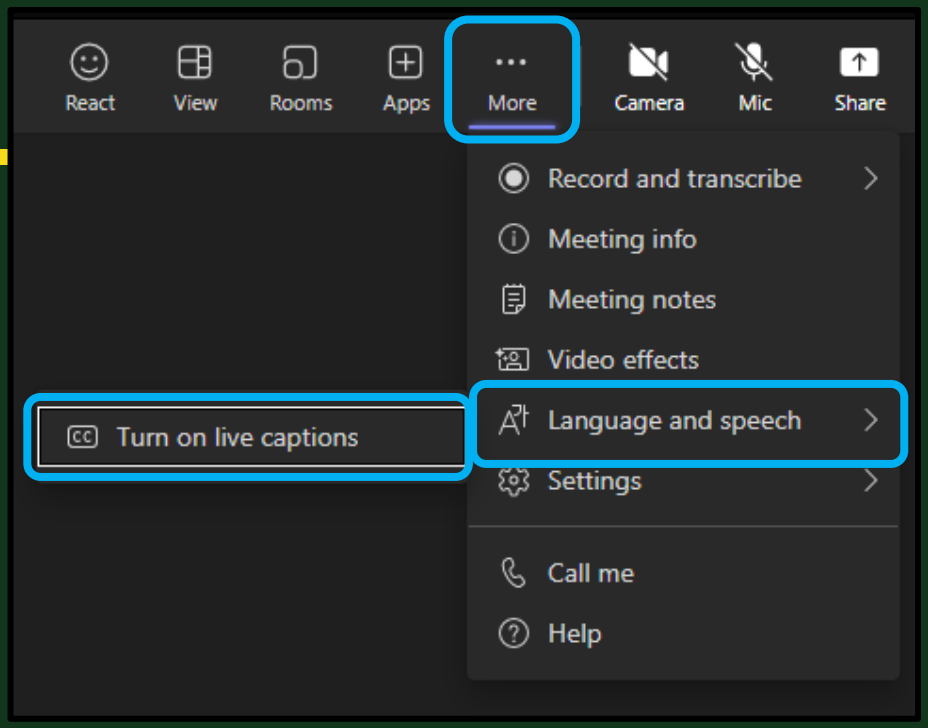


OR dial into the number listed in More Actions (…) > Meeting Info. menu.

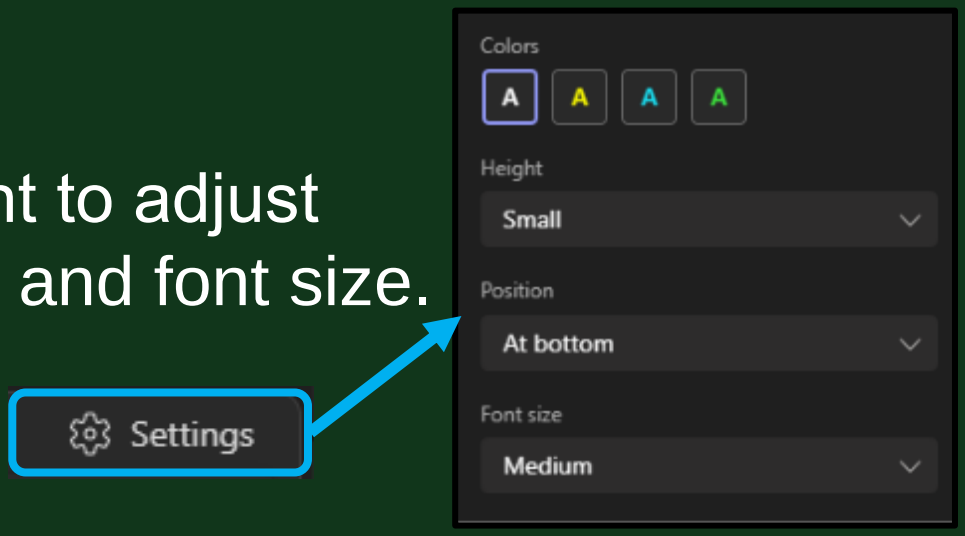
Also: Close other programs running on your computer.

Captions

1. Select “More Actions” menu
2. Select “Language and speech”
3. Select “Turn on live captions”

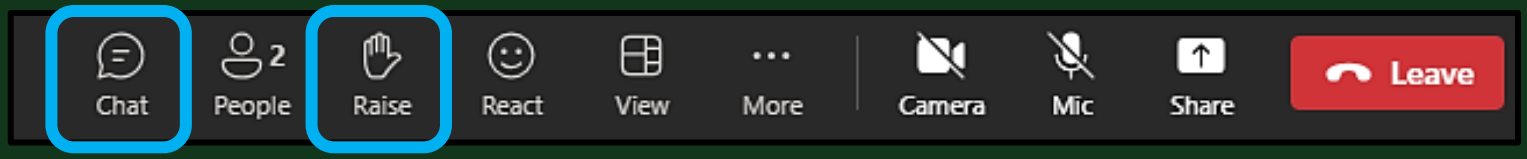


Select “Settings” in lower right to adjust captions bar height, position, and font size.



Ask Questions in Chat!

Type questions in the Chat as you think of them.



During Q&A you can speak up with questions.

We'll prompt you to raise your hand and will call on you.



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USFS Eastern Region Cohesive Fire Strategy 2025 Request for Applications

U.S. Forest Service
Eastern Region State, Private, & Tribal Forestry
Fire & Aviation Management, Cooperative Fire Program

Overview

- National Cohesive Strategy
- Northeast Regional Action Plan
- Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR)
- *Cross-Boundary Wildfire Hazard Mitigation on Non-Federal Lands**
- Wildfire Risk and Underserved Communities
- Grants.gov

National Cohesive Strategy

- **Restore & Maintain Landscapes**

  Landscapes across all jurisdictions are resilient to fire related disturbances in accordance with management objectives.

- **Fire Adapted Communities**

  Human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life or property.

Northeast Regional Action Plan Implementation Actions

1. Use of Prescribed Fire for Multiple Benefits
2. Restore Fire Adapted Ecosystems
3. Mitigate “Event” Created Hazardous Fuels
4. Support Local Fire Adapted Communities
5. Treat Hazardous Fuels in the WUI
6. Promote Prevention Programs

Developed by the Northeast Regional Strategy Committee and stakeholders to identify the most important actions to progress on.

Wildfire Risk Reduction Grant

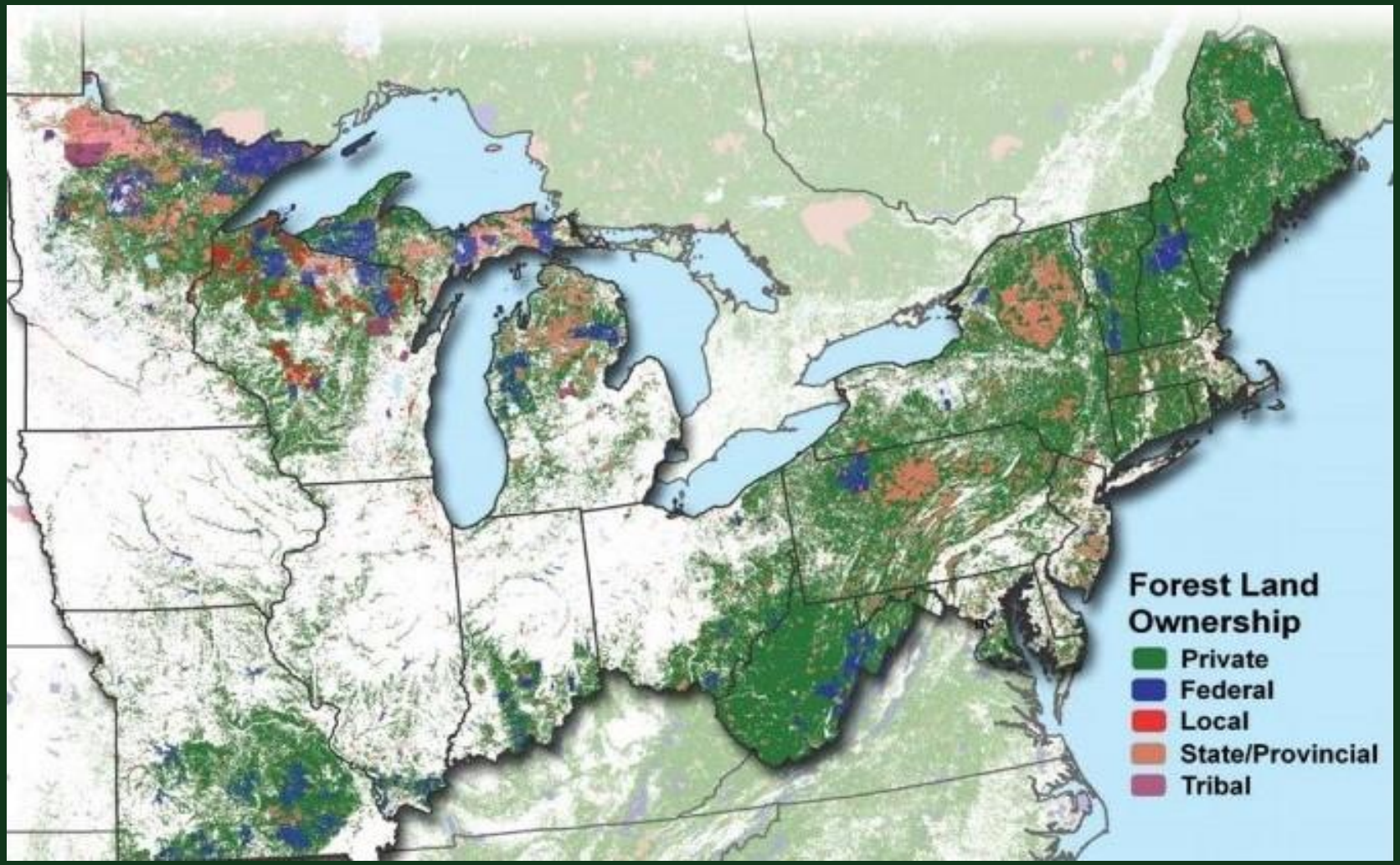
Target: Goals 1 and 2 of the Cohesive Strategy

- Restore and Maintain Landscapes
- Fire Adapted Communities

Meet one or more Regional options 1-6

1. Use of Prescribed Fire for Multiple Benefits
2. Restore Fire Dependent Ecosystems
3. Mitigate “Event” Created Fuels
4. Support Local Fire Adaptation by Communities
5. Treat Hazardous Fuels in the WUI
6. Promote Prevention Programs

EASTERN AREA STATES



Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR)
Eligibility

- ✓ State Forestry Agencies
- ✓ Forest Fire Compacts
- ✓ Groups of States
- ✓ Tribes
- ✓ Nonprofit Organizations
- ✓ Academic Institutions
- ✓ Fire Science Exchanges

“For Profit” organizations are not eligible for this funding opportunity

Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) Criteria

- ✓ At least 100% match of requested Federal funds is required.
- ✓ Provide 2025 WRR Planned Spending & Accomplishments Excel spreadsheet.
- ✓ Applications should contain maps to describe project location and activities.
- Submit a separate letter of support from the State Forester or appropriate designated authority for approving activities (NJ, State Fire Warden; NY, Director of Forest Protection).
  - Third Party–non-profits, academic institutions, fire science exchanges
  - Not Required–Tribes and State Agencies

Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR)
Funding Limits & Match Requirements

- The FY 2025 allocation for this grant opportunity is subject to funding availability
- Individual grant application funding limit of $25,000 to $300,000 in Federal funds
- Equipment: No more than 25% of Federal funds requested
- WRR grant funds must be matched 100 percent or more by eligible and allowable costs and are subject to match provisions
- 15% WRR cap on total award amounts to states. See guidance for details. Estimated cap is $420,000 per state depending on funding.

Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR)
Example Activities

- Use of Prescribed Fire
- Use of Mechanical Fuel Reduction
- Vegetation Management
- Use of small diameter wood
- Defensible Space
- CWPPs or equivalent
- Fuel Breaks & Fire Breaks
- Dry Hydrants that support a Fire Adapted Community
- Fire Mgmt. Planning in fire adapted landscapes w/ FAC's
- Slash Removal
- Brochures, PSA's
- Property Assessments
- Prescribed Fire or fire adapted communities related training
- Exercises that support FAC's
- I&E, Firewise, RSG, FAC & Fire Prevention Programs
- Wx station upgrades that support prescribed fire or community readiness

Non-Qualifying Examples:

- Research and development projects
- Capital improvements
- Economic development projects
- Fire Suppression or Support training not related to RX fire needs/qualifications

2025 WRR Planned Spending & Accomplishments Excel spreadsheet

- Replaces the old National Fire Plan Operations and Reporting System (NFPORS) form.
- The Landscape Resiliency Accomplishments Reporting Module (Landscape ARM) supports State Fire Capacity (SFC), BIL State Fire Assistance (SFA), and WRR Grant applications.
- For questions about Planned Spending & Accomplishments, please contact your Coop Fire staff.
- Please report accurately, the acres treated are part of the region’s accomplishment target.

Wildfire Risk Reduction (WRR) Review

- ✓ At least 100% match of requested Federal funds is required.
- ✓ Provide 2025 WRR Planned Spending & Accomplishments Excel spreadsheet.
- ✓ Applications should contain maps to describe project location and activities.
- Submit a separate letter of support from the State Forester or appropriate designated authority for approving activities (NJ, State Fire Warden; NY, Director of Forest Protection).
  - Third Party–non-profits, academic institutions, fire science exchanges
  - Not Required–Tribes and State Agencies

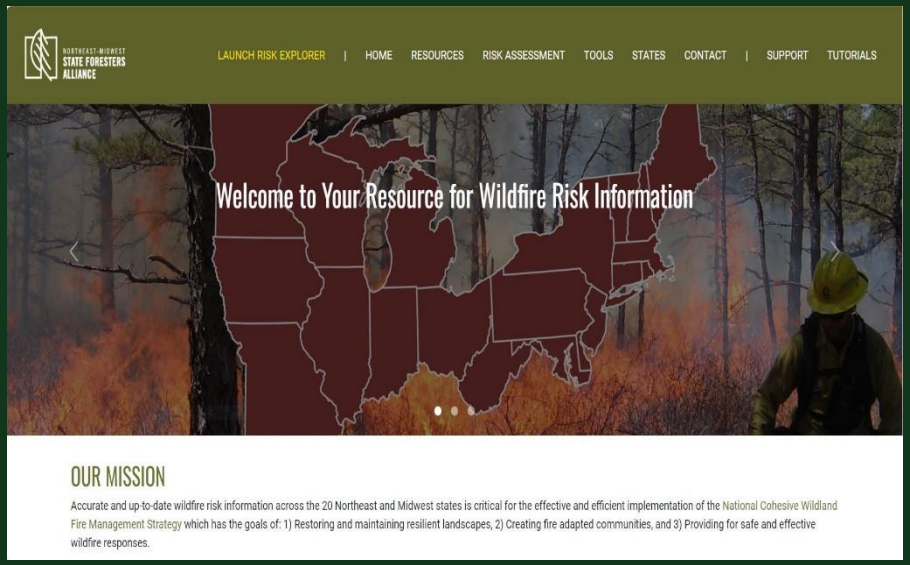
Application Ranking Criteria

100 Points Possible:

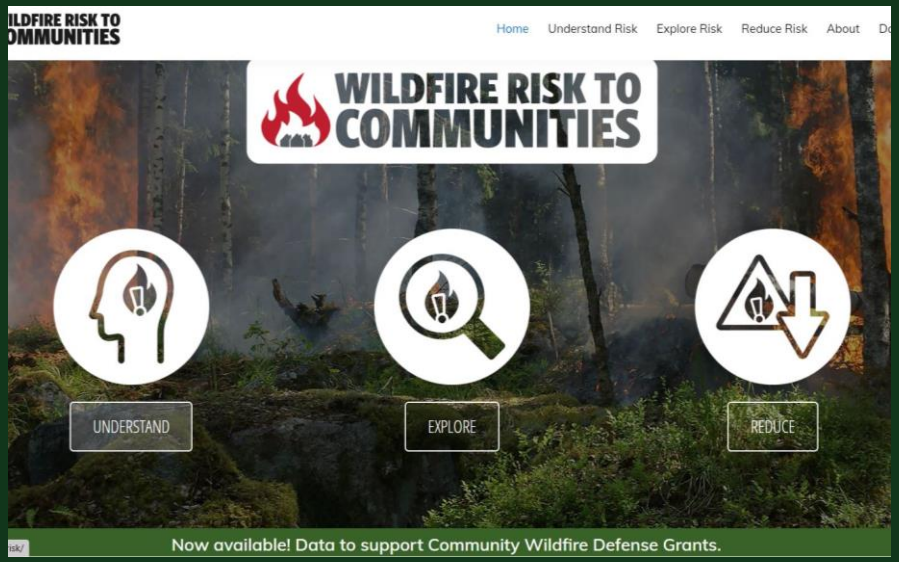
- Address Northeast Regional Action Plan's Options (30 pts)
- Engage in partnerships and collaboration (20 pts)
- Assist Underserved Communities (10 pts)
- Explain project effectiveness and efficiency (20 pts)
- Demonstrate a Wildfire Risk Focus (20 pts)

Wildfire Risk and Underserved Communities

Northeast Midwest Risk Assessment.com



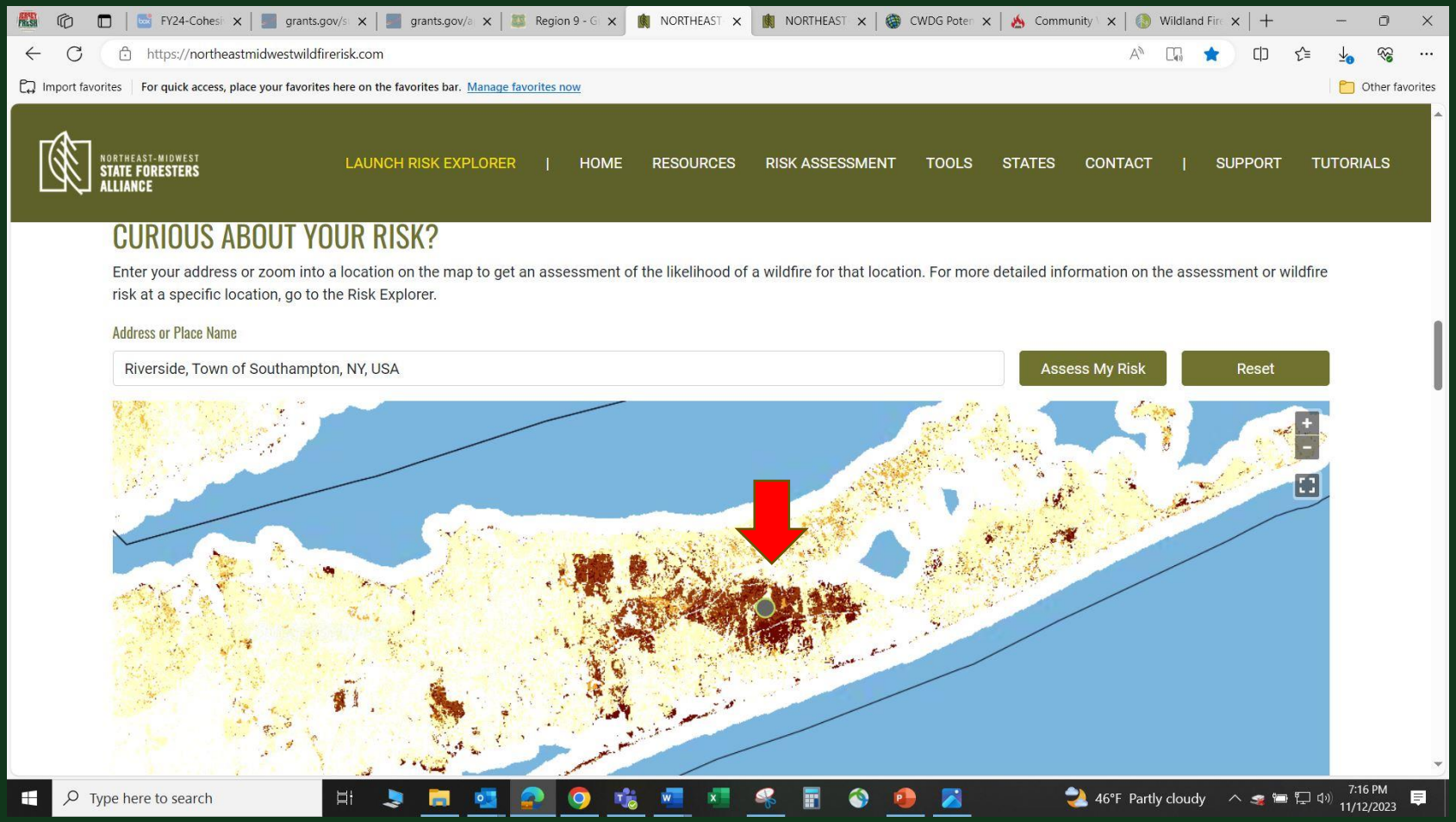
Wildfirerisk.org



Sources to Support Your Application & Ranking Criteria

Northeast Midwest Risk Assessment.com

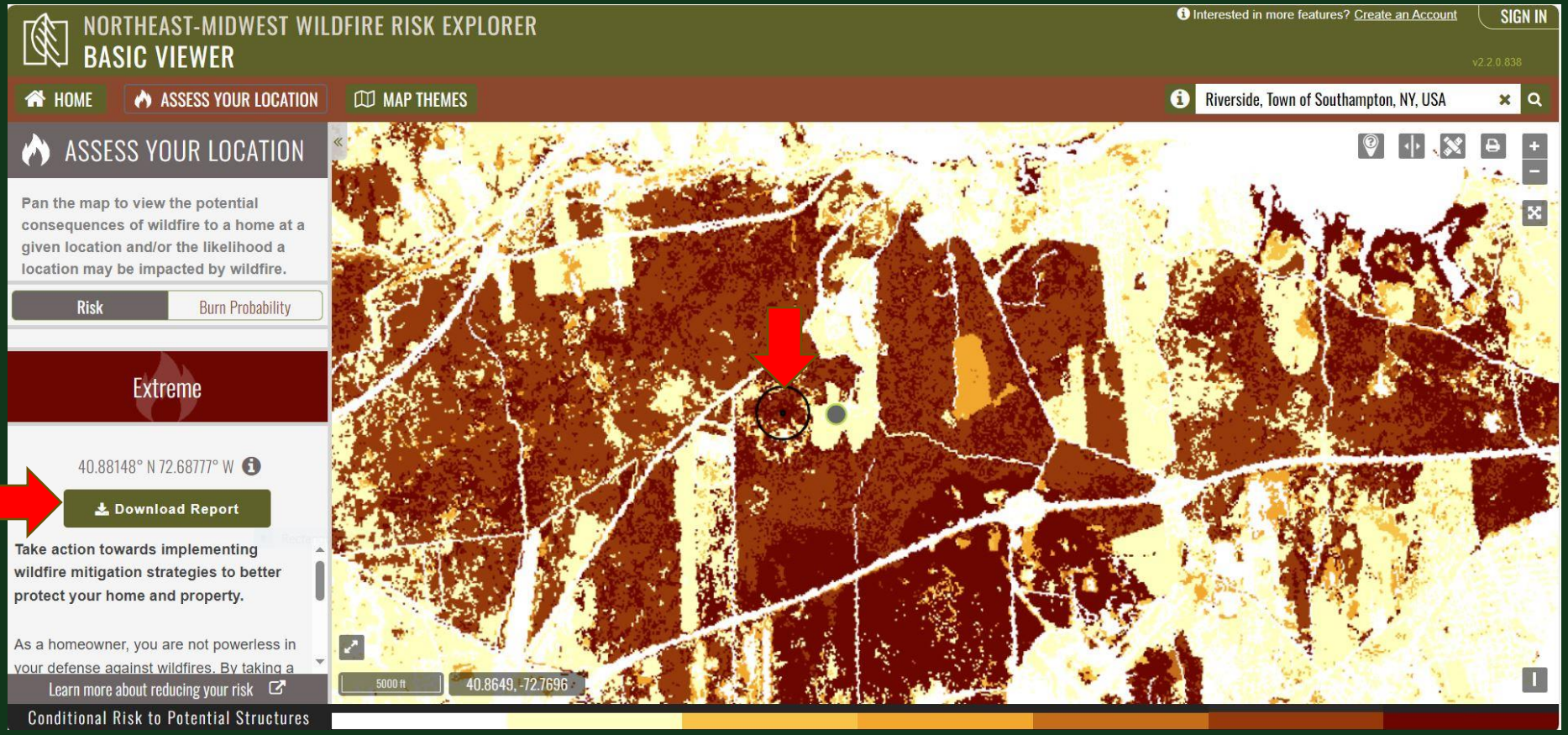
Riverside, NY – Curious About Your Risk?



Sources to Support Your Application & Ranking Criteria

Northeast Midwest Risk Assessment.com

Risk Explorer > Basic Viewer > Risk > Extreme!



Sources to Support Your Application & Ranking Criteria

Northeast Midwest Risk Assessment.com

Assessment Report for Your Location

Riverside, Town of Southhampton, NY

Introduction

Thank you for using the Northeast-Midwest Wildfire Risk Explorer. The following report provides the potential consequences of wildfire to a home for the location you have selected and mitigation activities that are recommended based upon the generalized risk level at the location.

Location

The information in this Assessment Report is based on an area that is approximately 45 acres in size centered at your location with the GPS coordinates of 40.8815° N 72.6878° W.

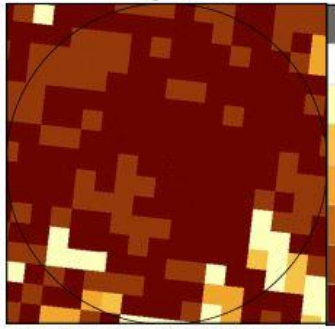
How to Read Your Assessment

Assess Your Location is derived from the Conditional Risk to Potential Structures (cRPS) or "Risk to Homes" and the Burn Probability layers. More information on each part of the assessment is detailed below.

Risk to Homes

The Risk to Homes or cRPS value of your assessment represents the potential consequences of fire to a home at a given location, if a fire occurs there and if a home were located there. It is a measure that integrates wildfire intensity with generalized consequences to a home on every pixel, but does not account for the actual probability of fire occurrence. There are six potential scores for cRPS: Very Low, Low, Moderate, High, Very High, and Extreme risk. There are also areas of the map with no risk data available, which include waterbodies and urban areas. The potential score values are summarized in figure 2 below.

Figure 1



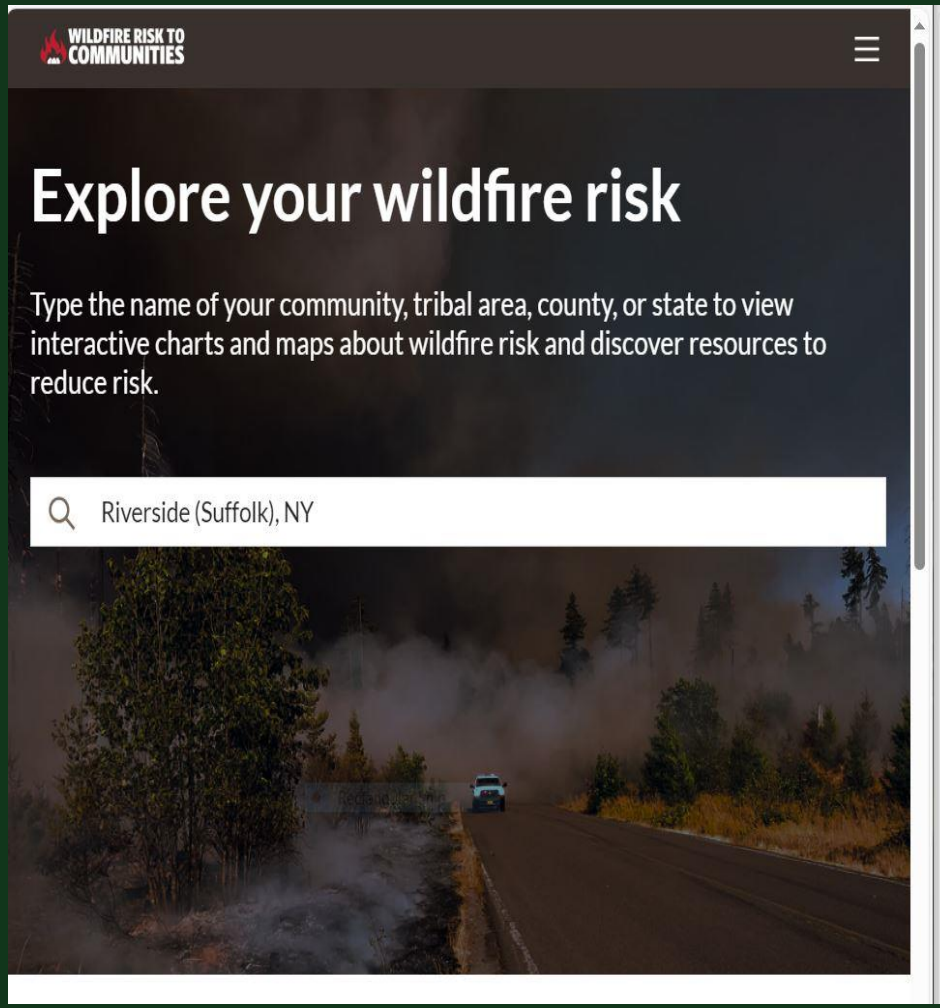
The Risk to Homes score for your location is Extreme.

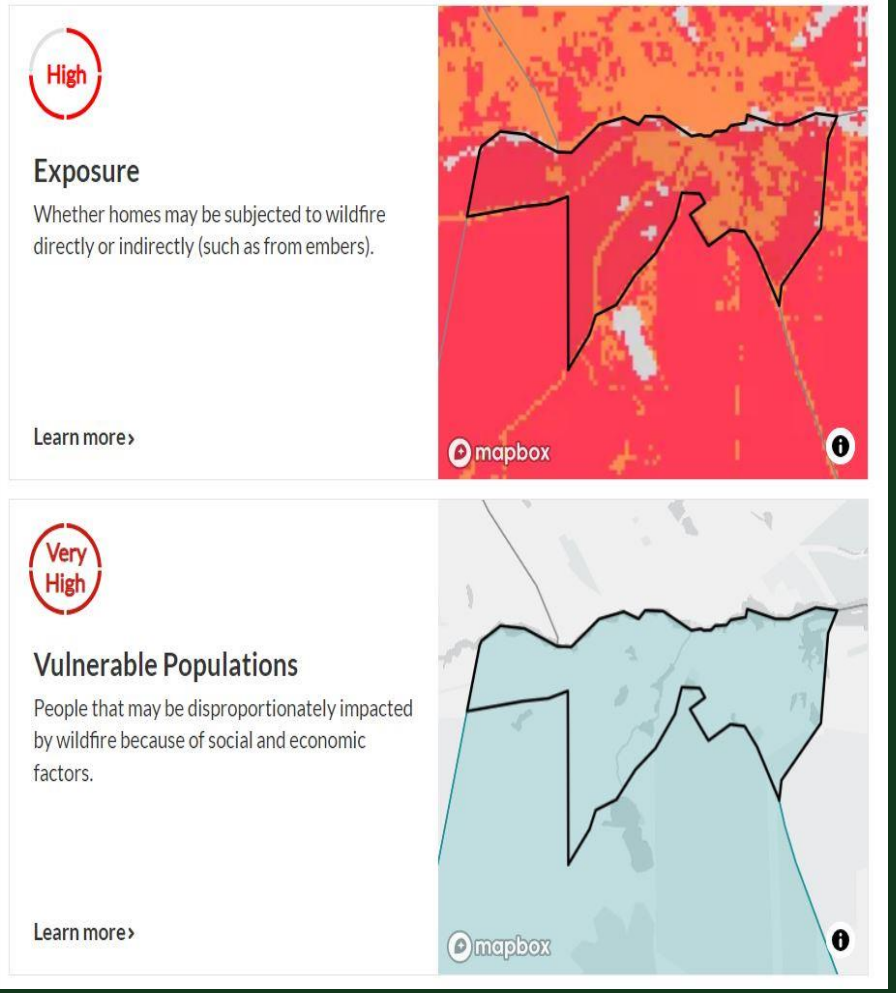
Figure 2

Risk to Homes
Minimal Direct Wildfire Impacts
Very Low
Low
Moderate
High
Very High
Extreme

Sources to Support Your Application and Ranking Criteria

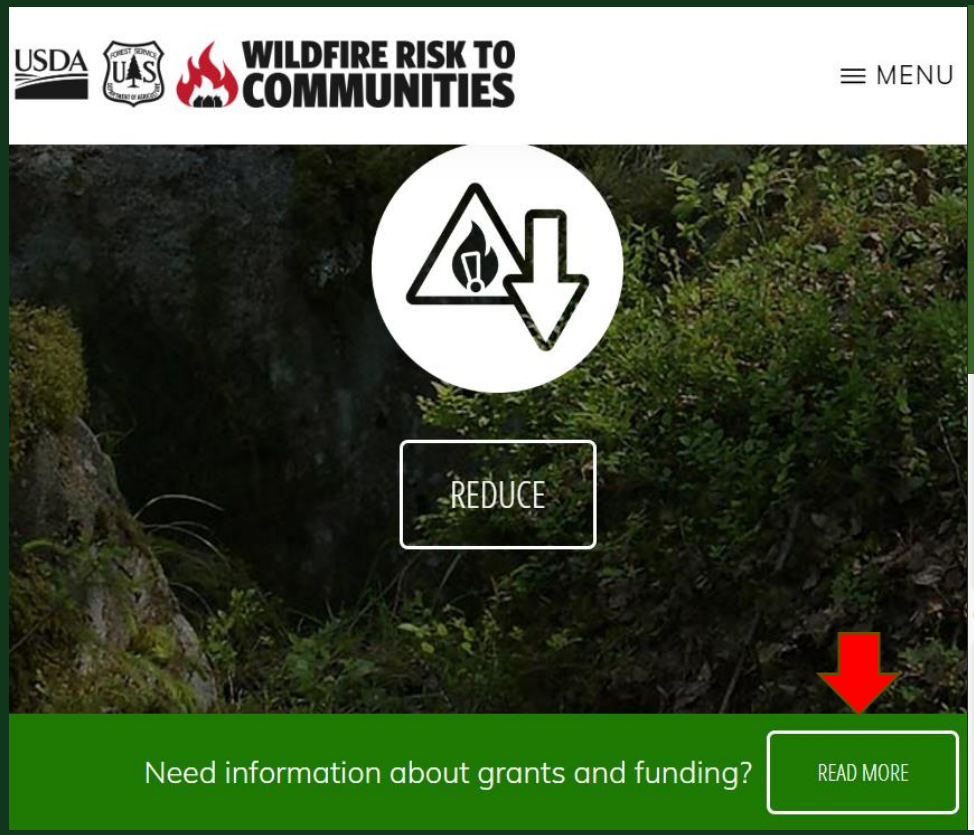
- Wildfire Risk
- Vulnerable Populations
- Wildfirerisk.org

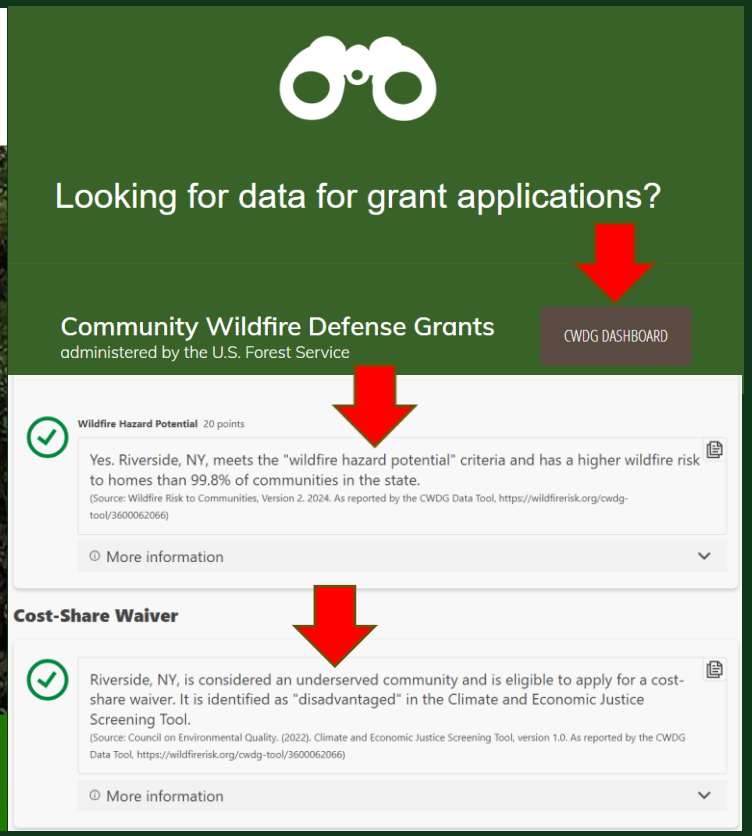




Sources to Support Your Application & Ranking Criteria

- Wildfire Hazard Potential
- Underserved Community: Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool (CEJST)
- Can use local or state wildfire risk data instead also
- Wildfirerisk.org





Once Again for FY 2025 – Grants.gov

Submit all applications through grants.gov

Search for grant opportunity:
USDA-FS-2025-COHESIVE-STRATEGY

Application deadline is January 15, 2025

Grants.gov provides 24/7 support:
1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov

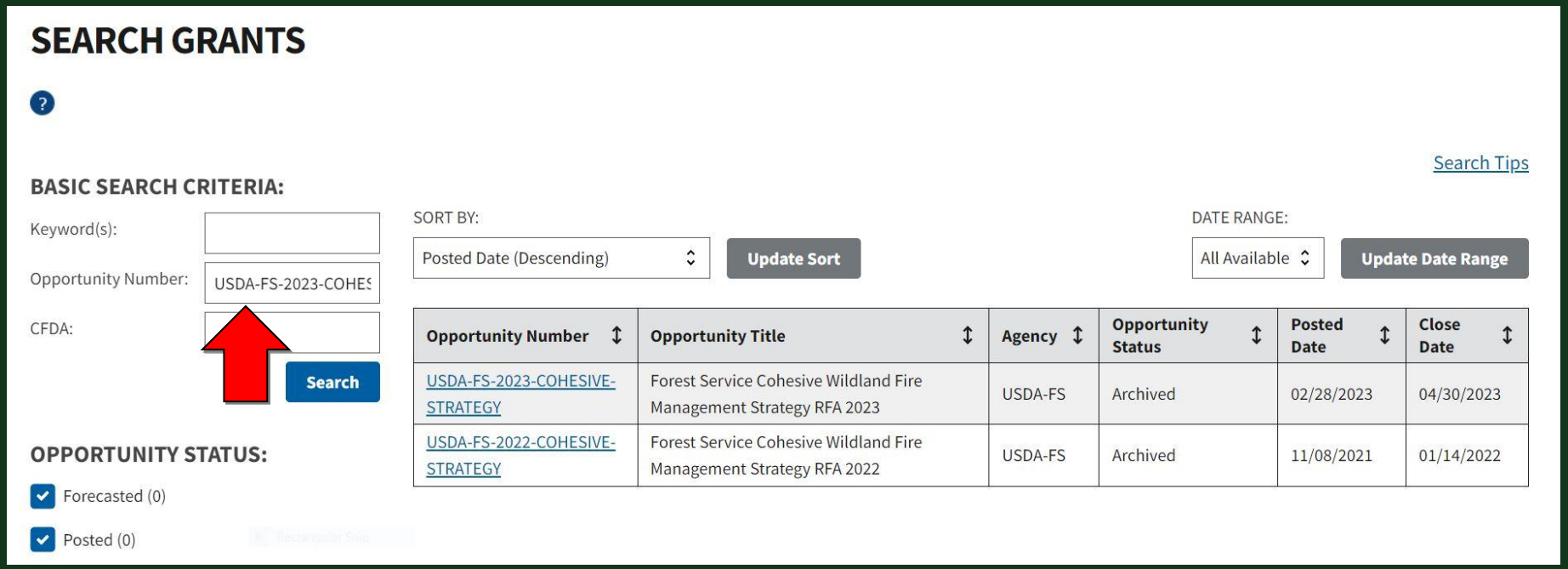
Preparing to Apply

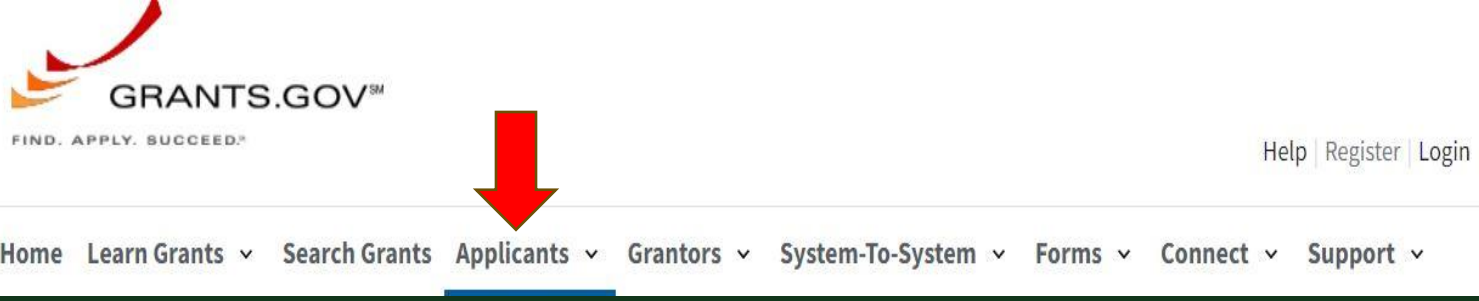
- FY 2025 guidance document has details on how to register and apply online through Grants.gov.
- Before working in Grants.gov you will need:
  - Employer Identification Number (~5 weeks)
  - System for Award Management (SAM) registration (~2 weeks)
    - Generates the Unique Entity Identifier (formally DUNS#)
  - Grants.gov account with Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) role (same day)
- One lead agency/grant applicant will apply in Grants.gov for all other contributors to the project.
- Only Grants.gov users with the AOR role for the applying entity are eligible to submit applications to Grants.gov.

How to Apply: Search Grants

Search for Opportunity:

USDA-FS-2025-COHESIVE-STRATEGY





FOR APPLICANTS:

- Check Your Availability
- Get Registered
- Apply for Grants
- Track Your Application
- Adobe Community
- Applicant Training
- Applicant FAQ’s
- Manage Subscriptions



Help | Register | Login

Home | Learn Grants | Search Grants | Applicants | Grantors | System-To-System | Forms | Connect | Support

SUPPORT CENTER:

- Welcome to Grants.gov Support
  - Applicant Support is available 24/7
  - 1-800-518-4726 or support@grants.gov
- FAQ's
- Report Fraud
- Find Help and Learn
- About the Program
- Grants.gov Releases
- Feedback

Reminders

- ✓ Submit application and documents through grants.gov.
- ✓ Link Project Proposal to NCS Goals/Regional Options and State Forest Action Plans.
- ✓ At least 100% match of requested Federal funds is required.
- ✓ Provide 2025 WRR Planned Spending & Accomplishments Excel spreadsheet.
- ✓ Applications should contain maps to describe project location and activities.
- ✓ Submit a separate letter of support from the State Forester or appropriate designated authority for approving activities (NJ, State Fire Warden; NY, Director of Forest Protection).
- ✓ **Proposals due by January 15, 2025 – Include ALL required items.**

Contacts

For the Eastern Region Cohesive Fire Strategy Competitive grant program:

Ray Parrish, Program Manager
raymond.j.parrish@usda.gov
(414) 323-2589

For WRR in Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia or Connecticut:

Maris Gabliks, Cooperative Fire Specialist
maris.g.gabliks@usda.gov
(609) 235-7524

For WRR in Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Michigan:

Caleb Schreiber, Cooperative Fire Specialist
caleb.schreiber@usda.gov
(715) 628-6999

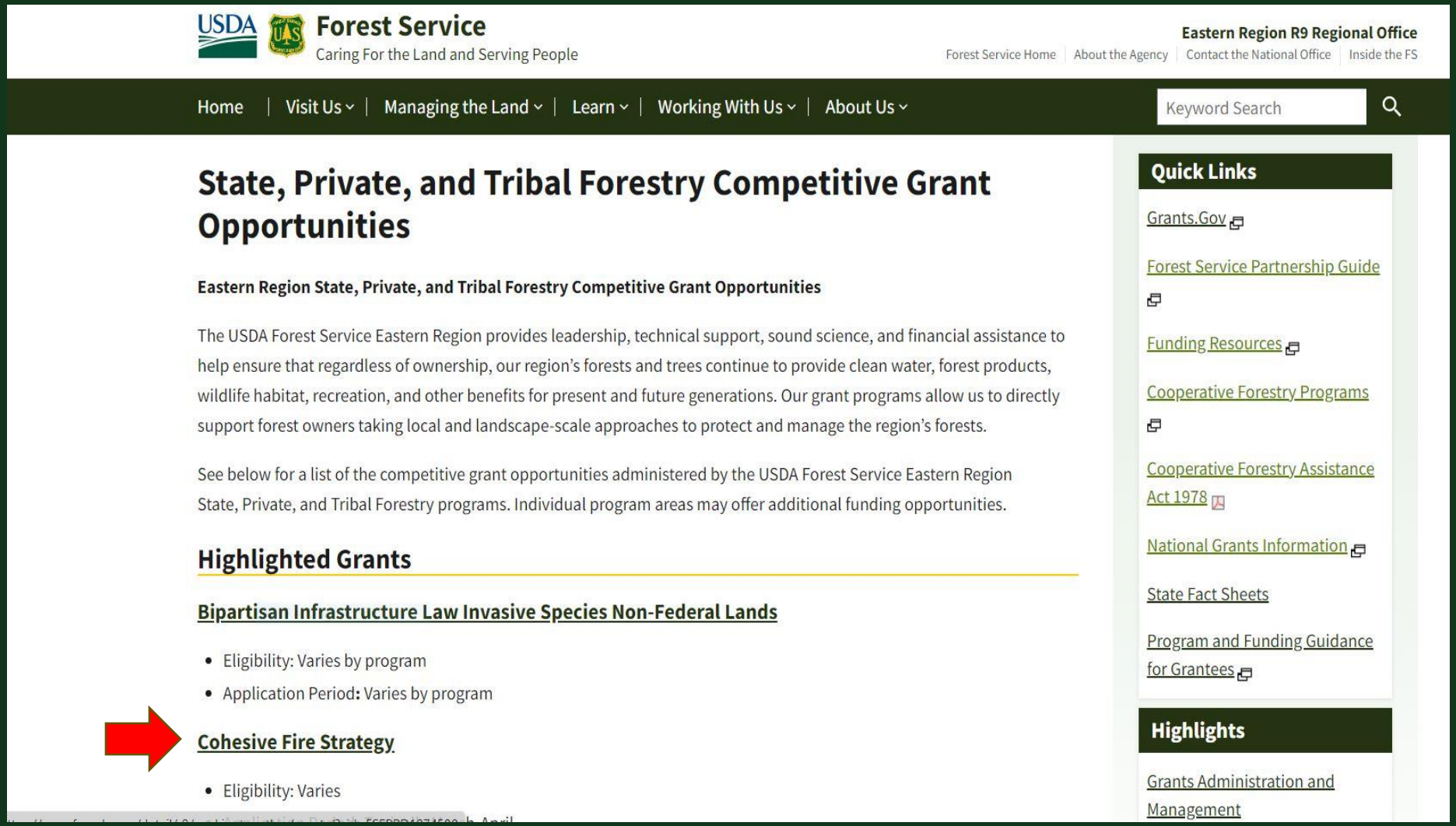
For WRR in Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, or Vermont:

Helene Hochholzer, Cooperative Fire Specialist
helene.hochholzer@usda.gov
(860) 861-7322

Key Sources to Support Your Application

- Eastern Region Grant Opportunity: Cohesive Fire Strategy
- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy
- State Forest Action Plans
- Northeast Regional Action Plan – 2015
- Northeast Regional Action Plan - 2020 Update
- Northeast-Midwest Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal (NMWRAP)
- Wildfire Risk to Communities
- Community Wildfire Defense Grants

Region 9 - Grants & Agreements



USDA Forest Service
Caring For the Land and Serving People

Eastern Region R9 Regional Office
Forest Service Home | About the Agency | Contact the National Office | Inside the FS

Home | Visit Us | Managing the Land | Learn | Working With Us | About Us | Keyword Search

State, Private, and Tribal Forestry Competitive Grant Opportunities

Eastern Region State, Private, and Tribal Forestry Competitive Grant Opportunities

The USDA Forest Service Eastern Region provides leadership, technical support, sound science, and financial assistance to help ensure that regardless of ownership, our region's forests and trees continue to provide clean water, forest products, wildlife habitat, recreation, and other benefits for present and future generations. Our grant programs allow us to directly support forest owners taking local and landscape-scale approaches to protect and manage the region's forests.

See below for a list of the competitive grant opportunities administered by the USDA Forest Service Eastern Region State, Private, and Tribal Forestry programs. Individual program areas may offer additional funding opportunities.

Highlighted Grants

Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Invasive Species Non-Federal Lands

- Eligibility: Varies by program
- Application Period: Varies by program

Cohesive Fire Strategy

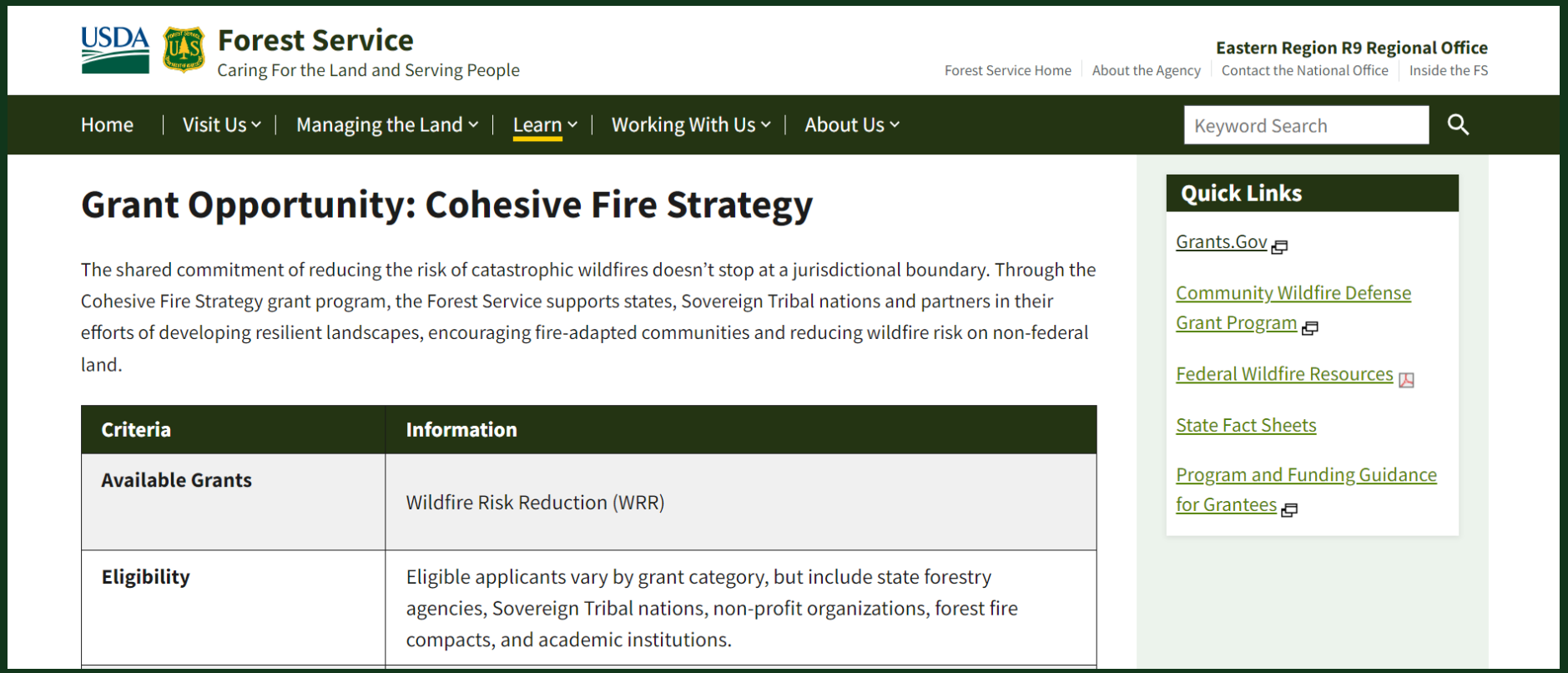
- Eligibility: Varies

Quick Links

Grants.Gov
Forest Service Partnership Guide
Funding Resources
Cooperative Forestry Programs
Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act 1978
National Grants Information
State Fact Sheets
Program and Funding Guidance for Grantees

Highlights

Grants Administration and Management



> Recorded Webinar
> 2025 Grant Information
  - Guidance and Instructions
  - Optional Narrative Template
> Contact Information

Thank you for your participation!

Questions?

Type your questions in the Chat or

to speak up with your question:

1. Raise your hand (at top). Wait to be called on.
2. When called on: Start your webcam (optional), unmute, say your name and title, ask your question!
3. When done: Mute your mic. and stop your webcam.

