



Network for Landscape CONSERVATION

Advancing the Practice of Conservation at the Landscape Scale

Network for Landscape Conservation Announces New Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund

January 9, 2019

[The Network for Landscape Conservation](#) (NLC) is pleased to announce the launch of a major five-year national grant program to accelerate the pace and practice of collaborative conservation at the landscape scale. Through generous initial support from the [Doris Duke Charitable Foundation](#) and the [William and Flora Hewlett Foundation](#), the Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund will distribute at least \$1 million in funding to landscape conservation partnerships across the United States over the first three-year period, and offer supplemental training and mentoring to grantees. In the Western states, the Fund will include a focus on collaboratives that involve tribes in a meaningful way. The Fund will be administered by the Network's fiscal sponsor, the [Center for Large Landscape Conservation](#).

We know today that we need to recalibrate conservation efforts to work at the landscape scale—the scale nature functions—and that we need to focus on community-grounded partnerships that meaningfully involve the people that live in those landscapes. And this trend is well underway. (See, for example, [Assessing the State of Landscape Conservation Initiatives in North America](#).) This approach holds extraordinary promise to tackle today's escalating landscape-scale challenges, including habitat fragmentation and climate change, and to build enduring social capital on behalf of the irreplaceable landscapes that sustain us. The new grant program focuses on this ongoing, fundamental shift of land conservation from top-down and siloed approaches to the new era of community-grounded and collaborative partnerships committed to integrated conservation of ecological, cultural, and other values across the broader public/private landscape.

Research and experience in the [collective impact field](#) and specifically in collaborative landscape conservation (see, for example the Network's [Pathways Forward: Progress and Priorities in Landscape Conservation](#) report) document that these partnerships will not succeed without supporting the collaborative process itself. Funding acquisition of land and conservation easements is pivotally important, but we also need to fund the infrastructure for these partnerships if we are to build effective, broad-based collaboratives and increase the pace and scale of conservation at this critical time.

The Landscape Conservation Catalyst Fund will focus specifically on addressing the critical need for building capacity for landscape conservation partnerships by investing in the “backbone” coordination of the collaborative process and in supporting key stepping stone activities necessary to achieve broad-based partnership support and conservation on the ground. The program RFP will be announced on March 1, 2019. Program updates will be posted via Network e-news and at <http://landscapeconservation.org/catalyst-fund/>

About the Network for Landscape Conservation: Founded in 2011, the Network for Landscape Conservation (NLC) connects people to ideas and innovations—and to each other—in order to build a community of practice for the field of landscape conservation. This broad-based network today includes more than 100 organizational partners and 2,000 practitioners, fulfilling a unique purpose as an

umbrella network and hub of activity to advance the practice of landscape conservation. The Network is coordinated by a 30-person leadership team in the nonprofit, private, public, academic, tribal, and philanthropic sectors in the U.S., Mexico, and Canada and is a fiscally sponsored project of the Center for Large Landscape Conservation in Bozeman, Montana.

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- 30 -