Sierra Nevada Conservancy's Landscape Grant Program, Phase III Questions

Completeness of the project portfolio (~25 minutes*)

Assesses the extent to which the collaborative group possesses a clear narrative and proposed budget, supported by maps or other visual tools describing the project portfolio including specific treatment types, location, timing, acres, scientific support for the approach, cost estimates for planning and implementation project activities, and a proposed plan for the subset of the portfolio a Landscape Grant Program grant could fund.

1. Use maps or other visuals as needed to walk us through the project portfolio. Explain the primary risks your collaborative is trying to address and the primary benefits you're trying to achieve with the project portfolio. What assets are you trying to protect? Why are these priorities for this landscape?

2. What is the total acreage and estimated cost of the project portfolio? Approximately what percentage of the portfolio is shovel-ready, requires additional planning or permitting, or remains conceptual?

3. If awarded an $8-12M grant, which projects or activities within the portfolio would you prioritize for funding, and how would this investment advance the portfolio as a whole? Please describe how funds would be allocated across implementation, planning, monitoring, capacity, or other eligible activities and why these are the highest priorities. (It may be helpful to reference the "Eligible Activities" section of the Landscape Grant Program Guidelines).

Capacity and readiness of the collaborative to implement at scale (~15 minutes*)

Assesses the extent to which the collaborative group has a clear, feasible, timeline for advancing and implementing the project portfolio. Environmental compliance is in place for implementation activities. There is sufficient workforce capacity, funding (existing and anticipated), and a timeline for both implementation and future planning. The collaborative has identified respective roles and responsibilities of collaborative members with regards to grant administration and implementation. The partnership is aware of potential challenges and has considered possible solutions.

1. Within your portfolio, what are the highest-priority projects you intend to advance over the next 3-5 years? Explain your strategy for sequencing and moving them toward implementation. How will you address key needs including workforce capacity, permitting and environmental compliance, funding, and other barriers?

2. How much funding is currently secured/unspent for your portfolio's priority projects? How much will be spent next year? What potential funding sources and/or new partnerships are being explored to advance the portfolio?

3. Who are the likely project leads? How would an $8-12M grant be distributed among collaborative groups?

Inclusion of Tribal priorities (~10 minutes*)

Assesses the extent to which tribal priorities have been incorporated in the project portfolio and tribal projects, workforce, or other priorities are included in the project scope and budget.

1. How are Tribes involved in designing, planning, and implementing projects?

2. Will tribal crews be used or is there another plan to enhance or support a tribal workforce?

Environmental / Ecological benefits (~10 minutes*)

Assesses the environmental benefits of the project portfolio and the degree of alignment between expected outcomes and state environmental and ecological priorities, including metrics for success.

1. What ecological benefits are you hoping to achieve with the portfolio, and what science or expertise informs the design of the proposed treatments? Please use a few representative projects or treatments to illustrate.

2. Have you considered climate change in designing the portfolio? How will you measure whether treatments are achieving the intended ecological outcome?

3. How does your collaborative incorporate monitoring and adaptive management into your project design and prioritization process? What is the plan for re-treatment/maintenance?

Socioeconomic benefits (~10 minutes*)

Assesses the socioeconomic benefits of the project portfolio, including impacts on local economies, sustainable recreation, workforce development, use of local crews and contractors, use of residual biomass and other socioeconomic benefits expected to result from a Landscape Grant Program grant.

1. What are the most significant socioeconomic needs, challenges, and vulnerabilities across this landscape? How will your project portfolio address these needs and contribute to resilient, healthy, and economically viable communities?

2. How will woody biomass from treatments be disposed of?

Transformation Potential (~15 minutes*)

Assesses how an $8-12 million investment would be transformational for the landscape and the collaborative, including how matching funds or other resources would amplify impact. It can explain why large-scale investment is needed now and how such an investment would have an impact on landscape resilience.

1. What changes as a result of this investment that would not occur otherwise – both on-the-ground and for the collaborative? Is there a missing piece that this investment would address?

2. How will this investment be leveraged to generate additional resources, partnerships, or capacity and amplify impact beyond the grant?

3. What will be different about the way your collaborative plans, implements, funds, or maintains resilience as a result of this investment?

4. Is there anything else you want us to know about your collaborative, landscape and project portfolio that hasn't already been covered?

***The times provided for each question are estimates intended as guidance rather than strict time allocations. The interview will be limited to 90 minutes overall, but there is flexibility in how much time is spent on each question.**