

# What's New in 2026?

## Community Forests Grant Program

### **Purpose**

Provide funding to protect actively managed forestlands for community benefits such as recreation, forest products, and open space.

### **Who may apply?**

- Local government entities
- Native American Tribes
- Nonprofit conservation organizations
- A state agency working with one or more of the above entities

### **When are applications due?**

April 30, 2026

### **Is a plan required?**

A community forest management plan must be submitted to RCO before project completion.

### **When are grants awarded?**

June 2027 estimate

### **What types of projects are eligible?**

- Acquisition
- Combination acquisition and development or restoration

### **What are the grant limits?**

- \$3 million maximum
- No minimum grant

**How much match must the project sponsor contribute?**

15 percent

**How is the project evaluated?**

An advisory committee reviews written materials and scores the projects.

**What's new this year?**

Extended the time to complete the acquisition in a combination project to eighteen months.