



Funding & Legislation Working Group DRAFT Principles of Investment

Purpose

The following Principles of Investment for the California Landscape Stewardship Network (CLSN) have been outlined to:

- Evaluate funding and legislation opportunities for the CLSN
- Define our priorities for the types/structure of funding opportunities that would advance landscape-scale stewardship
- Shape our conversations and requests of funding and legislation communities

Principles of Investment

1. **Funding for partnerships:** Provide overhead that could support partnership infrastructure (Could be administrative allowances but ideally would be a portion of the budget specifically allowable for facilitating or maintaining the partnership behind the work being done across the landscape.).
2. **Value long-term benefits:** Use selection criteria that values the community cohesiveness, creativity, efficiencies, and long-term stewardship vision resulting from collaborative communications, planning, and fundraising. Provide opportunities to understand and evaluate funding and other efficiencies achieved through the landscape-scale stewardship approach during the funding application process.
3. **Inclusivity:** Prioritize inclusive stewardship or inclusive collaboration at a landscape scale (ex. CA Floodplain Mgt, Protection, and Risk Awareness Program focused on “buying down” risk by including the community and many types of organizations and community as part of an overall solution to reducing the cost of a potentially very expensive problem by asking everyone in a watershed to play a role in the solution).
4. **Stewardship is important:** Include language that speaks to stewardship and collaboration as solutions to key issues including long-term protection of state conservation investments, climate change and resiliency, community commitment to the environment, and more.
5. **Research:** Prioritize collaborative scientific research and a shared foundation of knowledge across a landscape as the basis for utilizing the funding source.
6. **People and nature:** Support/value the deep inclusion of people in the project or solution, beyond experts/stakeholders/the project team, and recognize the value of building broad human connection with the land and its environmental functions over time.

7. **Economic value of stewardship:** Value collaborative resource sharing and understand that, through collaboration and multi-partner funding innovation, a small investment in an area of need can trigger large economic and conservation gains by leveraging a larger funding picture toward a shared goal.
8. **Scale:** Value greater efficiencies because a landscape scale partnership has resolved important institutional barriers or operational inefficiencies by working together to share information and look at solutions at a larger scale (i.e. data storage, data gathering, permitting and compliance)
9. **Innovation:** Support experimenting with new innovative approaches to long-term stewardship and collaboration at a landscape scale (an approach or solution isn't necessarily prescribed).