

Utah Forest Restoration Institute

Background

The Southwest Forest Health and Wildfire Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-317) authorized the creation of restoration institutes in six states to improve the health of dry forest and woodland ecosystems by leveraging best-science practices to reduce the risks and impacts of wildfire. Three restoration institutes in Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona were originally established, making up the Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes. The institutes serve the particular needs of each state and work collaboratively on cross-cutting issues. Utah is well-positioned to build an institute as part of the southwest network, creating opportunity to increase federal dollars to address forest health and wildfire risk in Utah.



UtahStateUniversity

Why USU

» USU has notable strengths in forest ecology and silviculture, fire ecology, forest soils, and ecosystem restoration. This is complemented by expertise in human dimensions of forest management and reduction of wildfire risk, creating a robust and balanced foundation for the institute.

» USU's communication and collaboration strengths include established Extension programs in forestry and fire that connect people and organizations throughout the state, as well as leadership in the federally funded Fire Science Exchange Network.

» USU scientists have strong working relationships with Utah Department of Natural Resources agencies through partnerships such as the Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative and Utah Shared Stewardship.



Creating a Utah Forest Restoration Institute will

- » Improve the management of existing wildfire risks and impacts within the state.
- » Secure federal funding for Utah-specific wildlife initiatives.
- » Provide a way for forest managers and researchers to collaborate on high-impact solutions for our unique circumstances.



REQUEST:

- **\$765,000** ongoing
- **\$55,000** one-time (field vehicle for data collection)

Director (annual partial salary + benefits)	\$30,000
Faculty team (annual partial salary + benefits)	\$45,000
Senior project manager (annual salary + benefits)	\$105,000
Project Manager (annual salary + benefits)	\$95,000
Communications and facilitation (annual salary + benefits)	\$90,000
Database/GIS Technician (annual salary + benefits)	\$105,000
Field Technicians (annual)	\$140,000
Operating funds (travel, equipment, network collaboration, field work)	\$155,000
Ongoing Support	\$765,000

