

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities

Call for Expressions of Interest for impact investment proposals by 10/11/21

The U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities seeks to make program-related investments in projects and investments that advance systemic, transformative and sustainable change for the health and vitality of working forests and forest-reliant communities in the U.S.

Ahead of anticipated board funding approval we welcome inquiries from companies, funds, project developers and others that seek investment in:

1. **Carbon credit funds** that have a focus on forests in the U.S.
2. **Digital and software-based technologies** designed to advance forest health and economies, e.g., mapping and monitoring software, or digital platforms to facilitate transactions involving forests.
3. **Forest management projects** (or portfolios of such projects) that directly advance forest health and economies, e.g., reforestation, forest conservation, or forest restoration projects.
4. **Hardware-based technologies** designed to advance forest health and economies, e.g., fire monitoring systems, sensors, or treatments for trees.
5. **New markets for forest products** such as biochar, bioliquids, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, and mass timber.
6. **Real estate development** using forest products—such as timber, mass timber, or biochar—and on a sustainable basis.

Preconditions and eligibility requirements

The Endowment will only evaluate impact investments in companies, funds, and projects that:

- Fall clearly into one of the six categories above.
- Advance the health and vitality of the nation's working forests and forest-reliant communities.
- Articulate an opportunity for the Endowment play an additional and catalytic role as an investor.
- Are within the U.S.
- Are \$100,000 - \$600,000 in size.
- Have a need and clear use for the capital provided, 3-6 months after approval.
- Represent 20–70% of the total capital sought in this raise for the company, fund, or project.

To express interest:

Interested parties should complete the form on the next page, and send it by October 11, 2021 to:

EndowmentEOI@gordianknotstrategies.com.

	Please provide the following information:
Eligibility requirement 1: Investment category	<i>Please state which of the following six categories this investment falls into:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carbon credit funds 2. Digital and software-based technologies 3. Forest management projects 4. Hardware-based technologies 5. New markets for forest products 6. Real estate development
Eligibility requirement 2: Additional and catalytic role for the Endowment	<i>Please articulate why and how you perceive an opportunity for the Endowment to play an additional and catalytic role as an investor.</i>
Name, title, and role	<i>Your name, title, and role.</i>
Contact info.	<i>Your email and phone number.</i>
Organization info.	<i>The name and website of your organization.</i>
Organization snapshot	<i>Your organization's annual revenue, length of time in operation, and track record in raising capital and delivering returns.</i>
Nature of the investment	<i>The nature of the investment, i.e., in a company, fund, project, or other vehicle; in the form of structured debt, equity, or other instrument.</i>



Fundraising amounts and timelines	<i>The amount of investment you plan to raise, the amount you seek from the Endowment, and date by which you intend to secure investment.</i>
Proposed investment structure	<i>Whether you seek a PRI or some form of guarantee or underwriting from the Endowment; How this fits into the overall structure of your fundraise.</i>
Projected investment returns and timelines	<i>The returns you expect the Endowment would see, as an investor—including relevant timeframes.</i>
Business model	<i>If you are a company or fund, outline your model for generating economic value. If you are a project seeking finance, outline the economics of your project and what your sources of revenue (not investment) will be.</i>
Customers and constituents	<i>If you are a company, provide evidence of how well you know and serve your customers; if you are a fund or project, provide evidence of how well you know and serve your project's key stakeholders and constituents.</i>
Your right to win	<i>If you are a company or fund, describe the markets you compete in, your primary competitors, and what your competitive advantages are; if you are a project, describe the market for projects like yours, whether that market is growing, who else participates in it, and why you and your partners are uniquely well-positioned to succeed in this and future projects.</i>

Projected scale of impact and timelines	<i>The impact you expect to have on the health and vitality of U.S. forests and forest-reliant communities, as a result of this investment—including relevant timeframes.</i>
Systems or plans in place to measure, report, and ensure impact	<i>The systems you have in place—or plan to put in place—to measure and report impact and ensure it is achieved.</i>
Counterparties and stakeholders	<i>The main counterparties to the investment, and any advisors or entities involved. If you are a project, outline any key project partners.</i>
Team	<i>Describe your leadership team and any key personnel. Attach resumes for them.</i>