

**USDA Forest Service Underserved Landowner** defined as landowners from one or more of the following groups (definitions below):

1. Beginning Forest Landowners;
2. Forest Landowners Living in High Poverty Areas;
3. Federally Recognized Tribes;
4. Limited Resource Producers; and/or
5. Veterans.

### **Beginning Forest Landowners**

- Not owned/operated a non-industrial private forest land; or
- Has operated a non-industrial private forest land for not more than 10 consecutive years; and
- All members/owners individually qualify as beginning forest landowners.

When self-determining their eligibility, landowners should consider whether:

- Within the last 10 years, they inherited the land from someone who died;
- The land was newly purchased land within the last 10 years; or
- They obtained a new farm number and tract number from FSA in the past 10 years.

### **Forest Landowners Living in High Poverty Areas**

High poverty areas are defined by the USDA as areas with a poverty rate of 20% or more in a single time period.

### **Federally Recognized Tribes**

In many geographies, Tribes and Tribal members may represent a significant proportion of underserved landowners. It is important for the USDA Forest Service to maintain a government-to-government relationship with Tribes, which is reflected in the federal Tribal process for the regularly appropriated Landscape Scale Restoration Program and will be developed for new IRA programs. To honor and build those relationships, the USDA Forest Service will continue to prioritize outreach and engagement with Tribal governments and communities. We recognize that many applicants also have robust Tribal engagement plans and strong relationships in place. The USDA Forest Service anticipates developing direct funding opportunities for Tribes to implement new programs utilizing IRA funding and authorities.

### **Limited Resource Producer**

- With direct or indirect gross forest product sales not more than the current indexed value in each of the previous two years, and
- Who has a total household income at or below the national poverty level for a family of four, or less than 50 percent of county median household income in each of the previous two years.

### **Veterans**

A veteran has served in the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard, including the reserve component thereof; was released from service under conditions other than dishonorable; and:

- Has not owned land for more than 10 years; or
- Who first obtained status as a veteran during the most recent 10-year period.