# FY2025 Guidance on Proactive Development of Plant Materials for Post Wildfire Rehabilitation

# Operating Principles:

The following “operating principles” underlie this request for plant materials development in anticipation of wildfire. Preparers should ensure that every submission gives due consideration to the operating principles and priorities outlined below.

1. **These funds are not guaranteed.** The quantity of BIL BAR funds, and the timing of availability, will be based on the severity of wildfires (2024 fire season) and the available funding after Bureau-specific BAR requests have been met.
2. **BAR reporting requirements apply.** Approved Requests must be entered into NFPORS/VMAP and meet agency-specific requirements for accomplishment reporting. Please refer to the [Interagency Burned Area Response Guidebook,](https://www.nwcg.gov/sites/default/files/partners/pwrp/pwrp-interagency-BAR-guidebook.pdf) and the [DOI Wildland](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/policy-memo-2023-004-wildlife-fire-program.pdf) [Fire Management Policy Memo 2023-004](https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/elips/documents/policy-memo-2023-004-wildlife-fire-program.pdf) for details.
3. **Showcase Opportunities.** Be prepared to share lessons learned, accomplishments, stories, and pictures of progress.
4. **Be creative.** The guidelines provided below are deliberately open-ended. The intent is to encourage communication and creativity to help DOI federal lands that have been impacted by wildfire or is likely to be impacted by wildfire to reach land management goals.
5. **Obligation of funds in FY requested.** This process aims to distribute BIL BAR funds to the highest priority management needs and requires obligation or expenditure of funds in Fiscal Year 2025. Funds will not carry over for individual projects. At the end of Fiscal Year 2025, any unspent or unobligated funds will be swept back to the Bureaus and made available for redistribution in Fiscal Year 2026.
6. **Collaboration.** Multi-unit and interagency requests will be prioritized higher than single unit requests. Applicants are asked to identify what contributions the benefiting unit or program will make towards a funded request, such as cost sharing and leveraging of funds from other funding sources. While this is not a prerequisite for approval, it can serve as a distinguishing factor when compared to other proposals. Considering ecoregional and/or provisional seed transfer zones to develop multi-unit proposals for native plant production is highly encouraged. Contact your Regional/State and National Post Wildfire Recovery Coordinators for a list of agency-specific requirements.
7. **Unique.** Proposals that describe how the projects will fill a unique role beyond what is currently available in the National Nursery and Seed Directory linked below will receive priority over those that do not.
	1. National Nursery and Seed Directory: [Reforestation, Nurseries and Genetics](https://rngr.net/resources/directory) [Resources (rngr.net)](https://rngr.net/resources/directory)

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# Key Variables/Ranking Criteria:

* Suitable plant materials would be readily available for post wildfire recovery and take advantage of site conditions after a wildfire that would increase the probability of success.
* Significance of the resource as stated in approved resource and land management plans;
* Fire history and threat of future wildfire to the resource(s) at risk;
* Likelihood for the successful achievement of intended goals;
* Previous investments by DOI agencies or partners (e.g., BAR funding, agency funding, etc.);
* Potential constraints to implementation (e.g., environmental compliance, hiring and contracting constraints, housing, etc.);
* Leveraging of funds from in-kind and external sources of funding;
* Consistent with a key principle of the National Seed Strategy, proposals demonstrate multi-unit and/or interagency collaboration in support of achieving landscape-scale land management goals and objectives;
* Long-term viability of the project when BIL BAR funds are no longer available.

# Examples of Fundable Requests:

* Collection of seed and other plant materials for propagation;
* Purchasing of seed and plant materials from growers or other entities;
* Propagation of seed, container plants, cuttings, and bareroot stock;
* Interagency seed and cone collection investments to support the restoration of a specific species (e.g., giant sequoia, white bark pine, etc.).
* Improving existing infrastructure and facilities (e.g., greenhouses, irrigation systems, etc.);
* Purchasing of infrastructure/supplies to support plant propagation and storage.