SUBJECT: PDM - Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership (LRP) Proposal Solicitation for Fiscal Year 2018

TO: State Conservationists

The Forest Service (FS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are requesting proposals for funding consideration in fiscal year (FY) 2018 within the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership (JCLRP). The intent of the partnership is to achieve measurable objectives through restoration projects that coordinate conservation activities on public and private lands. Projects funded will enable collaboration among the FS, NRCS, and many local, non-governmental, Tribal, and individual landowner stakeholders.

The objectives of JCLRP are to (1) reduce and mitigate wildfire threats to communities and landowners, (2) protect water quality and supply for communities and industry, and (3) improve habitat quality for at-risk or ecosystem surrogate species. This effort aligns with USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue’s vision for increased collaboration among Federal agencies and private partners to support America’s landowners with tools and assistance that improve their agricultural operations. The partnership also supports the Secretary’s principles for shared land stewardship, sustainability of valuable natural resources for America’s agricultural bounty, and continuous contributions to rural prosperity through creation of economic benefits for communities. These projects exemplify the shared stewardship model of working together with our partners to achieve these goals.

Proposals will be evaluated and selected based on their merit. The following criteria will be considered in selection:

- Project is a priority to the State and region
- Goals, deliverables, and desired outcomes are clearly stated
- Project aligns with priorities of the NRCS and FS Chiefs
- National Environmental Policy Act requirements are complete for work on public lands
- Partner support and involvement (non-Federal contribution to the project will strengthen application)

Selected projects are designed to measurably improve the health and resiliency of forest and rangeland ecosystems while contributing to community benefits. Projects leverage technical and financial resources between agencies, and with our partners, to complete on-the-ground accomplishments across jurisdictional boundaries. Successful projects utilize this program to
focus investment by both agencies within a 3-year period, and to coordinate and accelerate efforts within a shared landscape. The spatial and timing linkages of these projects enable cumulative impacts to be more beneficial and efficient.

Requirements for proposals submitted for FY 2018 funding consideration are as follows:

1. Proposals must include two levels of signatures – local NRCS Conservationist and Forest Supervisor, with the concurrence of NRCS State Conservationist, State Forester, and FS Regional Forester.
2. Proposals must include, at minimum, a combination of activities on private land, and national forest system, and/or State land.
3. Proposed activities must include land treatments, and education, outreach, and/or coordination activities on public, State, Tribal, and/or private land.
4. Projects may be up to 3-years in length; however allocations are made on an annual basis and there is no guarantee of funding in subsequent years.

Proposals should be completed by October 17, 2017, and submitted electronically to Luther Jones, NRCS, at Luther.Jones@wdc.usda.gov, and Clint Cross, FS, at ClintCross@fs.fed.us. The attachment provides the required proposal template format. An integrated evaluation of eligible proposals received will be completed by FS and NRCS at national headquarters in Washington, D. C. to initiate a limited number of additional projects in FY18. Selections will be announced by December 2017. An annual accomplishments report will be required of selected projects (further guidance will be provided).

For questions about JCLRP, or proposal submission, contact Luther Jones at (202) 690-3501, or email at Luther.Jones@wdc.usda.gov, or contact Clint Cross at (202) 205-0995, or email at ClintCross@fs.fed.us.

Leonard Jordan
Acting Chief

Attachment
cc:  
James E. Tillman, Sr., Acting Associate Chief for Conservation, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Thomas W. Christensen, Associate Chief for Operations, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Leslie Deavers, Acting Chief of Staff, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Sharif Branham, Acting Special Assistant, Associate Chief for Conservation, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Keisha Tatem, Acting Regional Conservationist, Northeast, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist, West, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Craig Derickson, Acting Regional Conservationist, Southeast, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Kevin Wickey, Regional Conservationist, Central, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Selena Miller, Acting Chief of Staff for Regional Conservationists Office, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Jimmy Bramblett, Deputy Chief, Programs, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Roylene Rides at the Door, Acting Deputy Chief, Science and Technology, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Kaveh Sadeghzadeh, Director, Public Affairs Division, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Jacqueline Davis-Slay, Director, Public and Private Partnerships, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Martin Lowenfish, Team Leader, Conservation Initiatives, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Luther Jones, NRCS Joint Chiefs’ Coordinator, NRCS, Washington, D.C.  
Laurie Kurth, Forest Fire Management Officer, FS, Washington, D.C.  
Clint Cross, FS Joint Chiefs’ Coordinator, FS, Washington, D.C.
Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Appendix

Proposals will be evaluated and selected based on their merit. The following criteria will be considered in selection:

- Project is a priority to the State and region
- Goals, deliverables, and desired outcomes are clearly stated
- Project aligns with priorities of the NRCS and FS Chiefs
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements are complete for work on public lands; and
- Partner support and involvement (non-Federal contribution to the project will strengthen application)

Selected projects are designed to measurably improve the health and resiliency of forest and rangeland ecosystems. Projects leverage technical and financial resources between agencies, and with our partners, to complete on-the-ground accomplishments across jurisdictional boundaries. Successful projects utilize this program to focus investment by both agencies within a 3-year period and to coordinate and accelerate efforts within a shared landscape. The spatial and timing linkages of these projects enable cumulative impacts to be more beneficial and efficient.

Proposals submitted for FY 2018 funding consideration are as follows:

- Proposals must include two levels of signatures — local NRCS Conservationist and Forest Supervisor with the concurrence of NRCS State Conservationist, State Forester, and FS Regional Forester.
- Proposals must include, at minimum, a combination of activities on private land, and national forest system and/or State land.
- Proposed activities must include land treatments, and education, outreach, and/or coordination activities on public, State, Tribal, and/or private land.
- Projects may be up to 3-years in length; however allocations are made on an annual basis, and there is no guarantee of funding in subsequent years.

Proposals should be completed by Monday, October 17, 2017, and submitted electronically to Luther Jones, NRCS, at Luther.Jones@wdc.usda.gov, and Clint Cross, FS, at ClintCross@fs.fed.us. The attachment provides the required proposal template format. An integrated evaluation of eligible proposals received will be completed by FS and NRCS at national headquarters in Washington, D.C. to initiate a limited number of additional projects in FY 2018. Selections will be announced by December 2017. An annual accomplishments report will be required of selected projects (further guidance will be provided).

All proposals must follow the attached template to be considered for funding. The body of proposals should be no more than four pages (maps may appear in an appendix). Proposals that do not contain the following information will not be reviewed:

- Project Title
- Primary Local Points of Contact – list names and contact information for each agency contact
- Project Area - describe the project area (1-2 paragraphs)
• **Cross-Boundary Objectives** – describe the cross-boundary resource objectives for this landscape and the expected outcomes (i.e., the end result of implementing the proposed activities, treatments, and practices). Explain how results are more than a collection of individual projects (e.g., spatial juxtaposition, sharing of expertise, achieving a critical amount of habitat or fuel treatment that tips the balance for a particular risk).

• **Resource Concerns and Values at Risk** – list values and resources of concern to be addressed (i.e., the reason why this proposal is a priority)

• **Benefits to Communities and/or Populations** – describe the benefit to communities, counties, or populations (1-2 paragraphs)

• **Certification of NEPA Readiness** – describe the NEPA documentation on planned work on public lands, and if any proposed work requires pending NEPA, and/or if new NEPA/planning is proposed. NEPA must be complete for activities planned for the first year.

• **Partner Engagement and Associated Contributions** – list actively engaged partners and contributions (funds, staff, or other). Include a budget table clearly showing the financial contribution or dollar value of contribution-in-kind from each partner.

• **Monitoring and Evaluation** – describe how the project outcomes will be monitored and evaluated.

• **Deliverables** – clearly define deliverables by year (up to three years) for both agencies

• **Budget Request** – provide budget request by agency for each year (up to three years). For NRCS, specify financial and technical assistance needs for EQIP by year. For FS, specify funding need by appropriate program/budget line item for each year. Funds may only be requested from the following programs within National Forest System (NFS), State and Private Forestry (S&PF), Capital Improvement and Maintenance (CIM) and pending funding availability of State and Private Forestry (S&PF):
  - S&PF: Hazardous Fuels (WFHF);
  - S&PF: State Fire Assistance (WFCF);
  - S&PF: Forest Stewardship (SPST);
  - S&PF: Landscape Scale Restoration (SPLR);
  - S&PF: Forest Health Protection – State (SPCH);
  - S&PF: Forest Health Protection – Federal (SPFH);
  - NFS: Vegetation and Water (NVW);
  - NFS: Wildlife and Fisheries (NFWF);
  - NFS: Integrated Resource Restoration (NFRR);
  - NFS: Lands (NFLM)
  - CIM: Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation (CMLG); and/or
  - CIM: Roads (CMRD).

• **Map(s)** – illustrate the general project location, specific areas targeted for treatment, and land ownership. Include features pertinent to the proposed projects, which may include water bodies, forest types, roads and other infrastructure, fuel risk ratings, etc.