

ATTACHMENT 1

NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM

RESEARCH AND SCIENCE PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) Research and Science Program provides financial support for science projects that work to answer fundamental science questions within NLCS units and for the larger National System of Public Lands as a whole. This program works to build natural, cultural, and social scientific knowledge of Public Land landscapes, increase the effectiveness of resource management strategies, foster cooperative conservation, and encourage public interest and ownership in the long-term conservation of America's landscapes.

The NLCS is administered by the Bureau of Land Management and consists of more than 27 million acres scattered throughout the western United States. NLCS units include National Monuments, National Conservation Areas and similar designations, Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Scenic and Historic Trails. The NLCS mission is to conserve, protect, and restore these nationally significant landscapes of exceptional cultural, ecological, and scientific values for the benefit of current and future generations. The Research and Science program supports the NLCS mission by fostering a greater understanding of these exceptional places through scientific study.

More information on NLCS lands can be found on the NLCS website at <http://www.blm.gov/nlcs/>.

State NLCS lead will consolidate and prioritize the requests with their state leadership.

General Granting Guidelines:

- NLCS Research and Science Program support projects that range from \$5,000 to \$25,000. Most awards will be made for \$10,000 or less. However, exceptional proposals may be funded at a higher rate. Proposals for less than \$5,000 will be considered provided they articulate an achievable and well-defined outcome. NLCS anticipates making 20 to 30 awards in 2010. The money will need to be awarded in 2010 even if part of the work will not be accomplished until 2011. Projects should also be clear about how the funding will be used and the difference it will make to and/or how it will support meeting a measurable land use plan implementation objective for the unit or focus on the objects/values for which the area was designated.
- Proposals must explicitly state how the projects contribute to one of two focus areas:
 - Basic Understanding: Projects that contribute to understanding the status and trends of NLCS resources, such as baseline inventories, objective-driven monitoring, and investigation of natural and human processes that influence these resources.
 - Applied Science: Research that expands natural and social/cultural scientific understanding. Scientific information from applied science projects within the NLCS will have direct relevance to other locations within the Bureau and/or for adjacent land managers. This focus area will support projects that test, develop, or implement physical or social science directly applicable to NLCS management needs.

- Both of these focus areas will support research that addresses specific credible and relevant questions within NLCS. Consideration will be given to proposals with direct applicability to support informed and effective decision-making.
- Applicants must contact the NLCS field office in which their work will take place and solicit documentation of support. At a minimum, this documentation must confirm that the project design is consistent with all regulations and planning guidelines and no additional impact analysis is required. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate field office as early as possible to discuss local science needs and potential research projects. Projects that directly address NLCS needs will receive a higher ranking during evaluation. Researchers with existing relationships and/or ongoing projects are encouraged to use this opportunity to apply for continued funding.
- Proposals must state the project's objective, timeframe, budget, role and responsibility of the BLM and/or other partners, and deliverables.
- Proposals must provide a plan for sharing knowledge and should include a component of public involvement or education. At a minimum, applicants are expected to provide annual update reports and a final report, suitable for distribution to BLM staff, plus a brief synopsis suitable for a broad public audience.
- One-year projects are preferable since multi-year funding cannot be guaranteed, but multi-year projects will be considered, as long as they are designed in phases that result in a discrete product at the end of one year.
- Project field work must take place on an NLCS unit. Applicants proposing larger projects spanning multiple land ownerships may apply for partial funding for the portion occurring on NLCS land. Projects of this type must provide matching funding for the other land ownership portion and demonstrate that the proposed research is relevant to the NLCS mission and values.
- Requests should include a description of deliverables (e.g. Data, maps, GIS, final peer reviewed reports).

Who is eligible to apply? Applications will only be accepted from qualified organizations **possessing active assistance agreements with the Bureau of Land Management**. Grants will not be awarded to individuals or for-profit organizations.

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- Include documentation illustrating strong field office support;
- Promote collaborative conservation through projects that benefit multiple programs (including, but not limited to riparian, cultural, paleontology, plant conservation, wildlife, fisheries, recreation, range, forestry, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, national scenic and historic trails, capacity building for citizen science and partnerships);
- Explicitly consider the landscape-level implications of the project. NLCS is seeking results that can be broadly applied across public lands;
- Include measures of success and explicitly state the value of the information gained for increased understanding of NLCS values;
- Include provisions for promoting public involvement, interpretation, and education in the natural or social sciences;
- Include matching contributions (monetary or in-kind).

Additional consideration will be given to projects with the potential to stimulate further research by generating foundational knowledge upon which future science can be based or with immediate potential for management application.

Proposal Format

Project Title: (be sure to include NLCS and the unit name)

Theme: Basic Understanding or Applied Science

Project Description/Abstract:

Geographic Description:

Your Organization: Applicant Name, Organization, Contact Information (including email). Briefly state the organization's mission, goals, and other appropriate details.

Project Abstract: Include a brief project description, intended accomplishments and a list of final products.

Project Objectives/Benefits: List the project's specific objectives and their likelihood of being reached. Describe how the proposed research will address one of the two key focus areas detailed in the request for proposals. Projects should also be clear about how the funding will be used and the difference it will make to the objects/values for which the area was designated and/or how it will support meeting a measurable land use plan implementation objective for the unit.

Feasibility and Methodology: Describe the project's tasks and include a timetable for their implementation.

Project Evaluation: Describe the strategy for monitoring and evaluating your proposed project's results including how success will be defined and measured.

Information Dissemination: Describe the plan for sharing knowledge gained from this study with a wider public. Provide specific details about educational, interpretive, or related benefits stemming from this project.

List principle investigator(s) and participating staff: Including the professional qualifications of key personnel. Where appropriate, briefly describe the investigator(s) relevant research/program of research. Include full contact details, including e-mail, and personnel affiliation.

Budget: List total cost of the project and specific amount requested from NLCS (not to exceed \$25,000) and projected matching funds. Please include the following in the budget section of your proposal:

How grant funds will be allocated to achieve project objectives. Include wages, travel, equipment, and indirect costs. *Note: Indirect costs will be paid at the negotiated rate specified in any relevant, existing assistance agreement.

Deliverables: List project deliverables. Include all products that will accompany the final, peer reviewed report, including maps, references, GIS products, data, etc., and recommendations for management application of the results.

Field Support: Attach or email documentation of field unit support.

Application Process and Timeline: Proposals will be submitted by the State NLCS leads to Marietta Eaton by May 28, 2010. Marietta_eaton@blm.gov

Note: For FY 2010 BPS submissions for science project support you will need to submit proposals in this format. For FY 2011 all NLCS Research and Science Program support projects will be submitted through BPS.

May 28, 2010 research proposals due

June 15, 2010 research proposals peer reviewed and selected