

## ATTACHMENT 1

### NLCS RESEARCH SUPPORT PROGRAM – REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The NLCS Research Support Program aims to increase the effectiveness of resource management by financially supporting scientific research that informs effective decision-making in the BLM. The Program seeks to engage the external scientific community in conducting management-focused, scientific research in the NLCS.

#### General Program Guidelines

Proposals must:

- Describe research that will inform effective decision-making in the BLM;
- Tier from the NLCS 15-year Strategy, the relevant State NLCS Strategy, the BLM Science Strategy and/or the NLCS Science Strategy;
- Address specific, credible, and relevant questions, usually identified in the NLCS unit's Resource Management Plan (RMP), RMP implementation plan, and/or science plan;
- Be designed around a clearly articulated research question(s), including for assessment, inventory, and monitoring projects;
- Describe research that takes place in a NLCS unit(s);
  - Projects spanning multiple land ownerships may apply for partial funding for the portion occurring on NLCS land. These types of projects must demonstrate relevance to the NLCS.
- Be for one-year projects, as multi-year funding is not guaranteed. Multi-year projects will only be considered if they are designed to produce a discrete product at the end of one year;
- Be consistent with all applicable laws, regulations, policies, and plans; and,
- Not require additional impact analysis.

#### Funding Limit:

Up to \$25,000

#### Number of Awards:

The NLCS anticipates making 20 to 30 awards in FY2013.

#### Proposal Requirements

- Proposals must be written as a stand-alone research proposal and include the following sections:
  - Introduction/background;
  - Research questions/hypotheses;
  - Research methods, including data analysis;
  - Results to date (if any);
  - Public engagement/education (if any);
  - Benefits of project;
    - Including how the project supports the unit's plans and/or conservation, protection, and restoration of the unit's designated values;
  - Detailed timeline of project;
  - Detailed budget;
    - Including details about matching funds and partner contributions;
  - Deliverables (e.g. reports, peer-reviewed articles, GIS files, outreach tools);
    - At a minimum, proposals must describe how/when partners will provide the BLM:
      - Annual progress reports;

- A final report, suitable for distribution to BLM staff;
- A manager's summary (<1 pg. report that helps inform managers' decisions); and,
- A brief synopsis suitable for a broad public audience.
  - Partner's qualifications, affiliation, and contact details (including email); and,
  - Relevant pictures (if any – no more than three);
- All proposals, including all attachments, must be submitted as a single PDF file.
- Letters of Support from BLM Field Offices and State Offices are not necessary. WO-410 will assume all proposals submitted by the State NLCS Leads have both Field and State support.

### **Partner-Conducted Research**

- Applications will only be accepted from partners possessing active assistance agreements with the BLM. Field Offices are responsible for ensuring that an active assistance agreement is in place.
  - Funding will not be awarded to individuals or for-profit organizations.
- Partners are strongly encouraged to work with the relevant Field Office in order to tailor the research proposal to meet the science needs of the Field Office.
- Partners must conduct all the labor for the project; partner labor is an appropriate budget expense.
  - BLM labor is not supported except if BLM resources are used to facilitate access for researchers to designated Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, or Wild and Scenic Rivers.

### **Evaluation of Proposals**

#### State Evaluation

- State NLCS Leads may establish internal deadlines for submission of proposals from Field Offices. In this case, Field Offices and partners must be adequately informed of the earlier deadline.
- State NLCS Leads will rank proposals and submit them through [this SharePoint site](#), no later than 5:00pm EST on February 1, 2013. WO-410 encourages State NLCS Leads to work with other State Program Leads and State Leadership when ranking proposals.
- State NLCS Leads are advised to notify the State Grants Management Officer of the proposals submitted to WO-410 for consideration in order to help prepare for any additional workloads.

#### National Evaluations

- A Washington Office inter-disciplinary team will review and rank submitted proposals. The team will consider in their review, if the proposal:
  - Improves BLM management of the NLCS and beyond the NLCS;
  - Fills knowledge gaps;
  - Has credible methods, budgets, deliverables, etc.;
  - Involves public involvement and/or education;
  - Includes matching contributions;
  - Is clearly written; and,
  - For partners that have received funding in the past:
    - If the partner has submitted reports, success stories, photographs, etc.
- WO-NLCS will consider the State NLCS Lead's rankings, the Washington Office team's rankings, and other national priorities when making funding decisions.