



File Code: 3000**Date:** JUL 18 2018**Route To:****Subject:** United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership Proposal Solicitation for Fiscal Year 2019**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, and Deputy Chiefs**REPLY DUE OCTOBER 19, 2018**

The OneUSDA concept ensures that the Department of Agriculture continues to work as one team to provide the American people with the best customer service possible. The Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership is a perfect example of 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. This partnership exemplifies the shared stewardship model of working together with our partners to achieve consistency with the USDA Strategic Goals that guide our work to ensure that these projects facilitate rural prosperity and economic development, strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research, and ensure productive and sustainable use of National Forest System lands.

In keeping with the OneUSDA concept, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (FS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are requesting proposals for consideration of funding beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2019 within the Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership (JCLRP). The intent of the partnership is to achieve measurable objectives through coordinated conservation activities on public and private lands. Selected projects will enhance collaboration among the FS, NRCS, and many local, non-governmental, tribal, and individual landowner stakeholders.

The objectives of the 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.

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

- Alignment with USDA priorities;
- Support for state and regional priorities;
- Clarity of goals, deliverables, and desired outcomes;
- 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, while contributing to community benefits. Projects leverage technical and financial resources between agencies, and with our partners, to achieve on-the-ground accomplishments across jurisdictional boundaries. Successful projects utilize this partnership 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 2019 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 a 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 October 19, 2018, and submitted electronically to Martin Lowenfish, NRCS, at martin.lowenfish@wdc.usda.gov and Clint Cross, FS at clintcross@fs.fed.us. The attachment provides the required proposal template format. A joint evaluation of proposals will be completed by FS and NRCS at National Headquarters in Washington, D. C. Selections will be announced by December 2018. An annual Accomplishment Report will be required of selected projects (further guidance will be provided).

For questions about the JCLRP or proposal submission, contact Martin Lowenfish with NRCS at 202-690-4979, or at martin.lowenfish@wdc.usda.gov, or contact Clint Cross with FS at 202-205-0995 or at clintcross@fs.fed.us.


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Enclosure

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