The Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership is a tool for achieving USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue’s vision for increased collaboration among Federal agencies, States, Tribes, and private partners to target investments for addressing landscape-scale priorities. This partnership exemplifies the shared stewardship model of working together with our partners to achieve consistency with the USDA Strategic Goals. These goals 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 USDA’s Forest Service (FS) and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are requesting proposals for consideration of funding beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2020 within the Joint Chiefs’ Landscape Restoration Partnership (JCLRP). The intent of the partnership is to achieve measurable outcomes through coordinated conservation activities on public and private lands. Selected projects will enhance collaboration among FS and NRCS, as well as many local, non-governmental, Tribal, and individual landowner stakeholders. Joint Chiefs’ will align with shared stewardship by selecting projects that demonstrate a cross-boundary effort, work at the appropriate scale, and have mutually defined priorities that lead to desired outcomes.

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;
- Completeness of required NEPA documents 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 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 use 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 2020 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 and public land. In most cases, the public land will be within the National Forest System but may be or include State land.
- Proposed activities must include land treatments, as well as education, outreach, and coordination activities on public, State, Tribal, and 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 November 1, 2019, and submitted electronically to Martin Lowenfish, NRCS, at Martin.Lowenfish@usda.gov; and Clint Cross, FS, at Clint.Cross@usda.gov. 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 2019. An annual Accomplishment Report will be required of selected projects (Further guidance will be provided).

For questions about JCLRP or proposal submissions, contact Martin Lowenfish with NRCS at (202) 690-4979 or at Martin.Lowenfish@usda.gov; or contact Clint Cross with FS at (202) 205-0995 or at Clint.Cross@usda.gov.

VICTORIA CHRISTIANSEN
Chief

Enclosure

cc: Frank Beum, Patrica Hirami, Allen Rowley, Shawna Legarza, Clint Cross, Chris French, Jaelith Hall-Rivera, Martin Lowenfish