BLM-National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)
Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP)
Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) (One Task Statement)

Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: L20AS00102
JFSP Announcement No. FA-FOA0021-001

Federal Program: 15.232 – Wildland Fire Research & Studies Program

Authorizing Legislation: FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA), 43 USC §1737 (b), Public Law 94-579; Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act for FY 1998 (P.L.105-83; H.R. Report 105–163) and subsequent years (P.L. 106–291; H.R. 106–914)

I. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Background: The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) is a partnership of seven federal wildland fire management and research agencies that have a shared need to address problems associated with managing wildland fuels, fires, and fire-impacted ecosystems.

The partnering agencies include the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service (FS) and five bureaus in the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI): Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Geological Survey. The DOI is also represented by the Office of Wildland Fire. Funding to support the program is provided by both DOI and FS.

For further background on the JFSP, those considering submitting proposals are encouraged to visit its website at www.firescience.gov.

Objectives: The U.S. Congress directed the DOI and USDA FS to develop a Joint Fire Science Program and Plan to prioritize and provide sound scientific studies to support the land management agencies and other stakeholders in addressing issues associated with wildland fire. Current research priorities are identified as a task statement in this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA).

The Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) award is for current master and doctoral students enrolled at colleges or universities within the United States in the field of wildland fire and related physical, biological, and social sciences, to enhance student exposure to the management and policy relevance of their research to achieve beneficial outcomes of funded work. To be eligible, students must be currently enrolled in a master or doctoral program when the announcement closes. GRIN funding must be expended while the student is enrolled. It cannot be expended after the student graduates.

Public Benefit: Scientific studies funded by JFSP help to:

- ensure the health and safety of public and other lands
- provide protection of life, infrastructure, and natural and cultural resources.

Program Strategic Goals: As a jointly funded program, JFSP research priorities align strategically with the priorities of the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture.

Specifically, JFSP-funded research addresses the Secretary of Interior's priority to "create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt [by using] science to identify best practices to manage land and water resources and adapt to changes in the environment."

and

Secretary of Agriculture's priorities to "foster productive and sustainable use of our National Forest System lands and to strengthen the stewardship of private lands through technology and research." In addition, with respect to wildland fire in particular JFSP research priorities address both Secretaries' goals of reducing the occurrence and impacts of catastrophic wildfire through active management by contributing to the underlying scientific understanding and decision support tools needed to make informed decisions.

Finally, JFSP research priorities, as demonstrated by the task statement included in this FOA, directly and indirectly support the three goals of the 2014 National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy ("Cohesive Strategy"):

- Resilient landscapes
- Fire-adapted communities
- Safe and effective wildfire response

II. FEDERAL AWARD INFORMATION

The JFSP solicits and funds proposals from both government and non-government entities.

In accordance with the Legislative Authority, an inter-agency agreement will be used for federal awards.

A cooperative agreement will be used for non-federal awards and substantive Bureau of Land Management (BLM) involvement will consist of the following:

- The BLM Program Officer (PO) will collaborate with the recipient's Project Manager/Principal Investigator (RPM/PI) to manage technical execution of the project, recommended changes to objectives or technical execution.
- The JFSP program office is in contact with Principal Investigators to ensure projects are progressing according to the submitted proposals including occasional field trips and meetings with Project Manager/Principal Investigator.
- Responsibility for project management, control, and direction will be shared by the recipient and the BLM, however the BLM will have the right to intervene by modifying the project management plan if the project is not staying on schedule and/or technical issues arise.

A. Anticipated Federal Program Funding

Based on prior year data, BLM anticipates between $300,000 to $500,000 in funding for FY 2021. Individual award amounts will depend on the merit review process of application packages and proposed budget. Funding for this program is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of funds.

BLM is not obligated to make any Federal award as a result of the announcement and only Grants Management Officers and Agreement Specialists can bind the Federal Government to the expenditure of funds.

BLM reserves the right to fund projects in the following fiscal year. These awards will not require further competition.

B. Estimated Number of Agreement to be Awarded

Based on prior year data, BLM anticipates between 12 to 20 agreements for FY 2021. The actual number of awards will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds.

C. Estimated Amount of Funding Available Per Award

The award size will depend on the number of meritorious applications and the availability of appropriated funds. Individual awards made under this announcement are capped at $25,000 per award.

D. Anticipated Start Date:

Projects funded through this FOA will start once funding is secured and awards issued. Agreements are not effective until fully executed with signature from the BLM Grants Management Officer (GMO). The JFSP anticipates a late-August to mid-September start date for awards.

E. Anticipated Term of the Agreement:

Agreement terms for funded projects are estimated to be accomplished within two years or less, depending on the negotiated project proposal.

F. Additional Funding Information

Funding for this project(s) is not guaranteed and is subject to the availability of funds and evaluation of proposals is based on the review criteria in this announcement. In appropriate circumstances, BLM reserves the right to partially fund proposals in discrete portions or phases of proposed projects. If BLM chooses to partially fund a proposal, it will do so in a manner that does not prejudice any applicants or affect the basis upon which the proposal or portion thereof was evaluated and selected for award and therefore maintains the integrity of the competition and selection process. Funded proposals through this competitive announcement is not a guarantee of future funding.

When or if additional funding becomes available, BLM reserves the right to issue additional awards under this announcement through the next fiscal year.

Any additional selections must be made in accordance with the terms of this announcement and BLM and JFSP policies.

III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

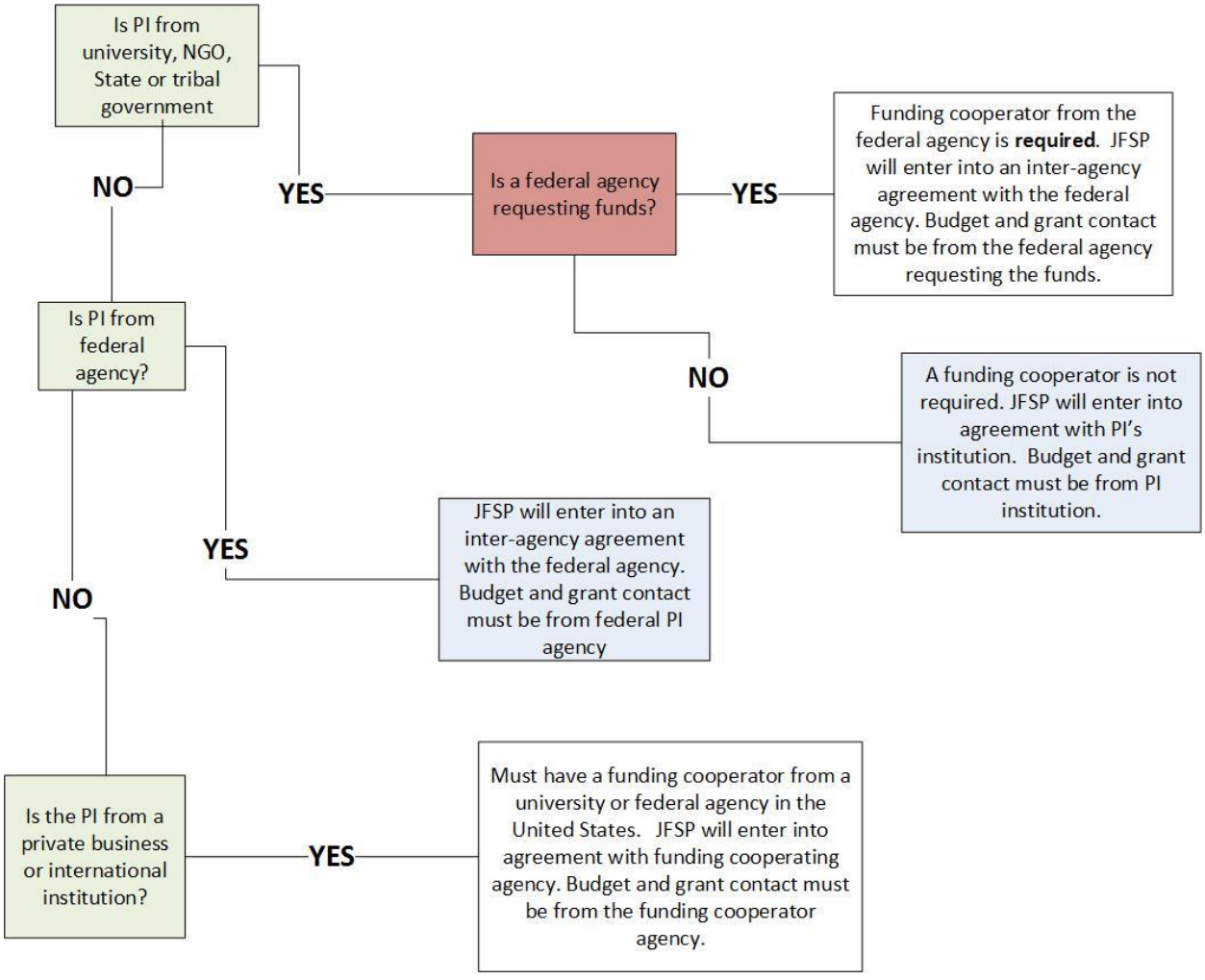
- The JFSP encourages proposals from all eligible parties and partners. Funds will be awarded through a university, tribal government, non-governmental organization (NGO), state agency or federal agency.
- Proposals with a PI from states or that have any international funding, also must identify a funding cooperator from the United States to receive and process the funds.
- Proposals with a university, tribal government, or NGO PI that do not include funding for federal agencies do not need a funding cooperator and funds will route through the PI's institution.

- Proposals that include budgeted funds to be spent by a federal agency and that do not have a federal PI, must list a funding cooperator from the federal agency requesting funds. **Any funds awarded to a federal agency will be issued under an Interagency Agreement.**
- JFSP encourages proposals from any eligible party or partner that is part of a Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU) program. CESUs are partnerships that provide research, technical assistance, and education. If a cooperative agreement is awarded to a CESU partner under a formally negotiated Master CESU agreement, indirect costs are limited to a rate of no more than 17.5 percent of the indirect cost base recognized in the partner's Federal Agency-approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA).

JFSP will enter into only one agreement per project with the PI institution or the funding cooperator institution.

- The PI institution or funding cooperator institution will be responsible for entering into sub-agreements with collaborating institutions.
- Budgets must be reviewed and approved by the institution's Budget contact and Agreements contact prior to proposal submission. If a funding cooperator is involved, the Agreements contact and Budget contact must be from the funding cooperator's institution.
- If the funding cooperator is from the Forest Service, the cooperator must be from a Forest Service Research Station. Work with your station funding cooperator to ensure you meet the station requirements for submission.
- JFSP will not provide additional funds to cover budget errors discovered after the proposal submission deadline.
- The end date and indirect costs for all sub-awards must match the end date and indirect costs in the original funding award document. The PI's institution should take into account any potential delays anticipated in executing sub-agreements when proposing project timelines. **(See funding cooperator flowchart below)**

Funding Cooperator Flowchart



B. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost sharing or matching is not required for this funding opportunity; however, it is strongly encouraged.

CESU partners are encouraged to show the difference between their formal Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate and the 17.5% rate agreed upon as a CESU partner as their voluntary cost share.

Applicants may attribute the difference between the JFSP approved indirect cost rate deviation and their formal negotiated indirect cost rate as a voluntary committed cost-share/match (see below).

C. Other Eligibility Restrictions:

JFSP approved indirect cost rate deviation: JFSP has an approved indirect cost rate deviation that limits proposals to a maximum of twenty (20) percent of the direct costs for each institution. Proposals requesting funds for indirect rates higher than

twenty (20) percent will not be considered. This memo can be found on the JFSP website at this link: http://www.firescience.gov/documents/BLM_Iindirect_cost_rate_exception_signed.pdf. Proposal funding through a federal funding cooperator must reflect either the prevailing indirect rate for the cooperating federal agency or the JFSP maximum limit of twenty (20) percent, whichever is less.

For non-federal institutions pass-through costs for subawards need to be included as a part of the direct cost calculation for each institution. Your institution must apply this reduced rate of no more than 20% against the same direct cost base identified on your approved indirect cost rate agreement. If your institution uses MTDC (modified total direct costs) as the direct cost base, the indirect cost rate can only be applied to all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and subcontracts up to the first $25,000 of each subaward or subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards and subcontracts under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of $25,000.

Federal institutions may include administrative costs for managing subawards of no more than 10% of the amount passed through to the subawardee.

Unrecovered indirect costs can be used as contributed funds in the budget.

Unique Entity Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM.gov) Registration: All applicants are required to obtain a Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number from Dun & Bradstreet and then register in SAM.gov prior to submitting a Federal award application. Federal award recipients must continue to maintain an active SAM.gov registration with current information through the life of their Federal award(s). See the "Submission Requirements" section of this document below for more information on SAM.gov registration. The BLM may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the BLM is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant. *This requirement does not apply to individuals applying for funds as a private citizen (i.e., unrelated to any business or nonprofit organization you may own or operate in your name) or any entity with an exception approved by the BLM under 2 CFR 25.110(d).*

D. Excluded Parties: The BLM conducts a review of the SAM.gov Exclusions database for all applicant entities and their key project personnel prior to award. The BLM cannot award funds to entities or their key project personnel identified in the SAM.gov Exclusions database as ineligible, prohibited/restricted or otherwise excluded from receiving Federal contracts, certain subcontracts, and certain Federal assistance and benefits, as their ineligibility condition applies to this Federal program.

IV. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

NOTE: It is recommended, prior to submitting an application, that proposers contact the program experts at JFSP if they have questions regarding the relevancy of their proposal to the task statement in this FOA.

A. Requesting Paper Application Package

All proposals must be submitted through the JFSP electronic submission process provided on the JFSP website (www.firescience.gov) not grants.gov. This announcement includes all information, documents, and information needed to submit an application. Paper copies will not be considered.

B. Application and Content Requirements

1. Proposal Submission and Agency Contact

All proposals must be submitted by September 30, 2020, 5:00 p.m. MDT, using the electronic submission process provided on the JFSP website (www.firescience.gov). **Proposals should not be submitted through Grants.gov.** No exceptions are allowed to this closing date and time.

All proposals must meet all requirements in this FOA (see especially Section V below). Proposals that do not meet all requirements in this section will not be considered for funding.

Direct questions to:

Administrative questions:
Becky Jenison, Program Analyst
Phone: 208-387-5958
Email: bjenison@blm.gov

Task statement questions:
Ed Brunson, Program Manager
Phone: 208-387-5975
Email: ebrunson@blm.gov

2. Steps to Create and Complete a JFSP Proposal

Multiple steps are necessary to create a JFSP proposal, some of which are dependent on prior steps. **Proposals must be submitted electronically via the JFSP website (www.firescience.gov)**. For full list of requirements see Section V C below.

Step 1 – PI establishes profile, updates password.

Step 2 – PI initiates proposal (select task, receive proposal #, enter proposal title).

Step 3 – Enter contacts (all contacts establish profiles, update passwords; PI assigns roles). Once the PI enters a contact, they will have access to sign into the database and access the proposal. Note: For required contacts, see Section V.

Step 4 – Proposal development (templates, requirements).

Step 5 – Complete budget (template, narrative).

Step 6 – Attach all documents (proposal overview, proposal body, advisor letter, advisor certification statement, literature cited, budget, budget narrative, data management plan, CVs, list of acronyms (optional), support letters (optional).

Step 7 – PI enters final details (project location, budget summary, start/end dates, abstract, task statement relevancy, and project category).

Step 8 – Budget Contact and Agreements Contact sign into the database and certify review of budget and budget narrative.

Step 9 – PI submits proposal (you must convert to Final Draft status first before hitting the Submit Proposal Button).

Notes

- Many steps can be in progress concurrently
- All information, including attachments, can be saved as Draft and edited later

3. Task Statement(s)

Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) Award

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) invites current master and doctoral students enrolled at colleges or universities within the US in the field of wildland fire and related physical, biological, and social sciences to apply for a Graduate Research Innovation (GRIN) award. The purpose of a GRIN award is to enhance student exposure to the management and policy relevance of their research to achieve beneficial outcomes of funded work.

Specific objectives related to management are to enhance student exposure to and interaction with fire and fuels managers, develop appreciation and understanding of fire and fuels managers information and research needs, and augment already planned and funded master or doctoral research to develop information and/or products useful to managers. The JFSP also is interested in understanding the science needs of decision-makers, which provides an opportunity for students to enhance their understanding of how science can be used to inform fire-related policy. As a result, these awards are intended to enable graduate students to conduct research that will supplement and enhance the quality, scope, or applicability of their thesis or dissertation to develop information and products useful to managers and decision-makers. Only proposals that supplement student thesis or dissertations will be considered. Proposals must demonstrate relevance to fire, fuels, or resource management and include means to directly communicate with managers, when applicable, regarding project outcomes.

Proposals must be directly related to the mission and goals of JFSP to be considered. Applicants are encouraged to search the JFSP website (www.firescience.gov) to learn more about the scope of JFSP activities. In addition, proposals must directly address management- or policy-related questions related to one or more of the following topic areas:

- Fuels management and fire behavior

- Changing fire environment
- Emissions and air quality
- Fire effects and post-fire recovery
- Relative impacts of prescribed fire versus wildfire
- Human dimensions of fire

Proposals on topics not listed above will not be reviewed.

Proposals must describe new, unfunded work that extends ongoing or planned research that is the subject of a thesis or dissertation that has been approved by the graduate student's advisory committee. For example, GRIN funding might allow a graduate student to add an additional related area of inquiry to an already planned thesis project. Proposals that are unconnected to ongoing or planned research, or that appear to describe an entire thesis/doctoral project rather than an add-on, will not be funded. In addition, students that previously received a GRIN award are not eligible for additional GRIN awards. Only one GRIN proposal per student will be accepted.

Proposals must be authored predominately by the student; however, they also must be reviewed and submitted by the student's advisor, who acts as the formal Principal Investigator (PI) for the project. Student exposure to proposal writing is considered part of the GRIN experience; as such, proposals that are written predominately by the advisor and not the student are discouraged. **A letter of recommendation from the student's advisor also is required.** If the student cannot complete the project, the student's advisor (project PI) must return unspent funds to JFSP. The student must be listed as a Student Investigator on the proposal.

In addition, letters of support from managers, when applicable, are encouraged.

Funds are intended for student use and support. Funds cannot be used for faculty salary. Funding can be used to conduct a significant field or laboratory data collection campaign; to complete a comprehensive synthesis, modeling, or data analysis; to conduct a policy analysis; or to develop an appropriate application or tool for fire and fuels managers. Appropriate budget items include: graduate student stipend, field or laboratory assistance, research equipment or materials, and travel. Funds cannot be used for student tuition. Each award is capped at $25,000, including university indirect costs as described in the proposal instructions.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of student qualifications, scientific merit, relevance to managers/decision-makers, extent to which the proposed work extends or enhances an approved thesis or dissertation, and feasibility of the proposed work (see Section E, Application Review Information). details the review process.

Recipients of the GRIN award are required to produce at least one management/policy-oriented tool or summary guide based on the funded project. Awardees also are expected to present their work at one regional, national, or international fire conference or workshop. Finally, the awardee is expected to write an acceptable final report for the JFSP prior to the project end date. These are one-time awards, and no supplemental funds will be granted.

4. Budget and Funding Policy

a) Funding Cooperator

Proposal may require a funding cooperator. See Section III A above.

b) Indirect Costs

The JFSP recognizes that agencies and organizations participating in the program need to recover reasonable indirect costs. Budget feasibility (cost effectiveness) of the individual projects, however, is a determining factor in the final selection process. JFSP has an approved indirect cost rate deviation that limits proposals to a maximum of twenty (20) percent of the direct costs for each institution. Proposals requesting funds for indirect rates higher than twenty (20) percent will not be considered. This memo can be found on the JFSP website at this link: http://www.firescience.gov/documents/BLM_Iindirect_cost_rate_exception_signed.pdf. Proposal funding through a federal funding cooperator must reflect either the prevailing indirect rate for the cooperating federal agency or the JFSP maximum limit of twenty (20) percent, whichever is less.

For non-federal institutions pass-through costs for subawards need to be included as a part of the direct cost calculation for each institution. Your institution must apply this reduced rate of no more than 20% against the same direct cost base identified on your approved indirect cost rate agreement. If your institution uses MTDC (modified total direct costs) as the direct cost base, the indirect cost rate can only be applied to all direct salaries and wages, applicable fringe benefits, materials and supplies, services, travel, and subawards and subcontracts up to the first $25,000 of each subaward or subcontract (regardless of the period of performance of the subawards and subcontracts under the award). MTDC excludes equipment, capital expenditures, charges for patient care, rental costs, tuition remission, scholarships and fellowships, participant support costs and the portion of each subaward and subcontract in excess of $25,000.

Federal institutions may include an administrative costs for managing subawards of no more than 10% of the amount passed through to the subawardee.

Unrecovered indirect costs can be used as contributed funds in the budget.

Indirect costs example

Scenario

- The PI is from a university or federal agency (lead institution)
- Co-PI is from a cooperating university or NGO (cooperating institution)
- The calculated expenses in the Budget for the lead institution are $200,000 (salary, fringe benefits, travel, equipment, etc.)
- The calculated expenses in the Budget for the cooperating institution are $40,000

Calculation of indirect costs

1. Cooperating institution

Maximum allowed indirect costs (20%)

$40,000 * 0.20 = $8,000

Total Budget for cooperating institution

$40,000 + $8,000 = $48,000

2. Lead institution

Maximum allowed indirect costs (20%) their direct costs

$200,000 - $23,000 (difference between $48,000 - $25,000 subaward allowed) = $177,000

$177,000 * 0.20 = $35,400

3. Total Budget = $200,000 + $35,400 = $235,400

Points of emphasis

- Lead institutions can include pass-through costs for each cooperating institution in their budget.
- Pass-through costs are calculated based on the total budget for each cooperating institution, including the indirect costs calculated by the cooperating institution.
- Cooperating institutions typically do not include pass-through costs in their budgets.
- Institutions should use their negotiated indirect cost rates with their cooperating institutions, but cannot exceed JFSP maximums.

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c) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Costs

Certain proposals may be required to pay a percentage of the project's costs into the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Proposals for which the funds are transferred to a Forest Service institution and subsequently a portion of the total budget is awarded to a non-federal entity through a sub-agreement or sub-contract may be required to pay the prevailing rate of the total funds awarded externally to the SBIR program. PIs should check with their Agreements contact to determine if this applies to your proposal and to determine the current rate.

d) Equipment Policy

Investigators are encouraged to contribute equipment (see 2 CFR Part 200.313) to conduct research studies funded by JFSP from existing equipment inventories. Contributed equipment should be included as "contributed costs" in JFSP budget spreadsheets and on the budget tab.

If necessary equipment is not available, JFSP will partially or fully fund equipment needed to conduct research funded by JFSP. In no case will JFSP pay more than $5,000 for a piece of equipment. If a new piece of equipment costing more than $5,000 is needed for the proposed project, proposal investigators are expected to contribute the remaining costs in excess of $5,000.

This criterion is to be applied for each and every piece of equipment.

e) Salary Policy

Funds are intended for the funded graduate students use and support, including, if necessary, hiring undergraduate students to assist in field or laboratory work. Funds cannot be used for faculty salary. Stipends are acceptable costs, but **tuition and other university fees will not be funded**.

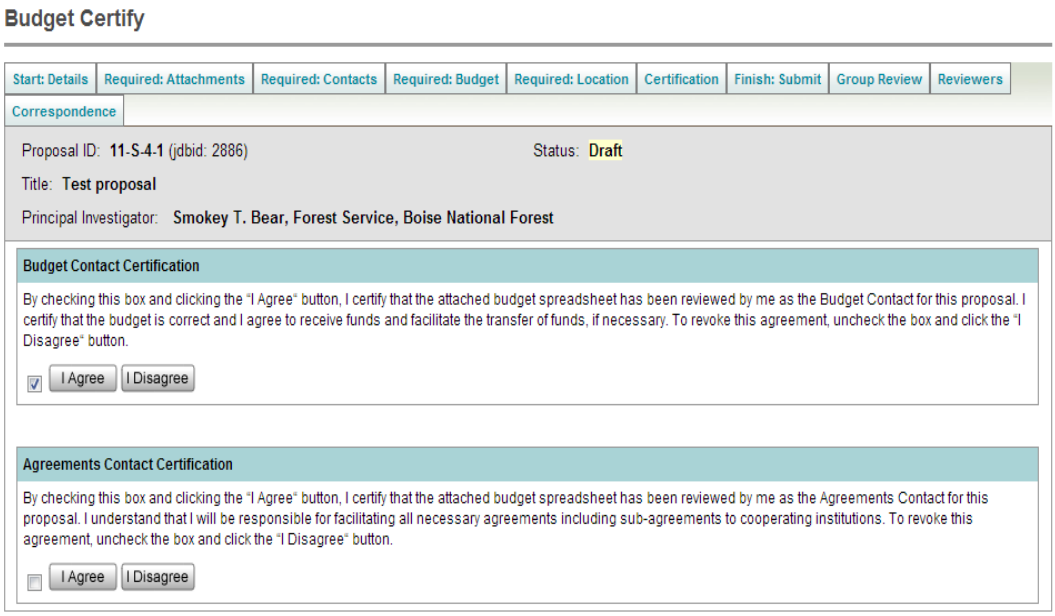
f) Budget

The budget spreadsheet and narrative must be reviewed by the Budget contact and Agreements contact to ensure all costs have been included and the budget is correct, including indirect charges. JFSP will not provide additional funds to cover errors discovered after the proposal submission deadline.

Budget spreadsheet must use the provided template and have a separate worksheet for each institution requesting or contributing funds, including all sub-agreements and contracted costs over $10,000. Identify all work that will be accomplished, including a breakdown of all tasks to be completed, and provide a detailed budget estimate in accordance with 2 CFR Parts 200.317 through 200.326. Contracted indirect costs and fees are subject to the indirect rate exception. Contracted costs under $10,000 must still be explained in detail in the budget narrative but do not require a separate worksheet in the budget template.

Budget narratives must have the level of detail provided in the example in the budget narrative template. Lump sum costs are not acceptable in any category, without a detail breakdown of how the costs were determined. Funded proposals will be closely scrutinized for allowable and reasonable costs before an award is issued. The JFSP also reserves the right to negotiate final budget numbers based on the final approved work scope.

The Budget contact and Agreements contact must sign in to the JFSP system and certify the budget is correct and that they understand their role in receiving funds and facilitating agreements. Proposals cannot be submitted by the PI if both contacts have not completed this task in the database. (**See screen print below**)



Proposals will be funded via cooperative agreement or Interagency Agreement. Budget contact and agreements contact must ensure that budgets have the correct indirect rates for your circumstances.

The JFSP does not fund projects that are, or should be, funded internally from existing accounts (such as routine agency monitoring) or operational portions

(such as the installation of fuels treatments or development of fire management plans) of other projects.

Funding is usually distributed in late summer or early fall. Budgets should be planned with this timing in mind.

5. Data Management Plan (DMP)

It is the intent of JFSP that all data collected, generated, or compiled through JFSP funds are of high quality and made freely available to others within a reasonable time period. The JFSP recognizes that preparation of data and metadata for publication is a time-consuming process. Adequate funds to support this work should be included in proposal budgets.

A Data Management Plan (DMP) must be attached as a separate document and is limited to two pages maximum. The DMP will be considered in the proposal review process. See the DMP template and instructions for further details.

Investigators must select a data repository well suited for publication and long-term archival of data sets collected, generated, or compiled through JFSP funding. The JFSP recommends use of the Forest Service Research Data Archive ("FS-RDA") (https://www.fs.usda.gov/rds/archive/). To discuss the Archive's services, please contact editor-in-chief Dave Rugg (dave.rugg@usda.gov) or associate editor Laurie Porth (laurie.s.porth@usda.gov).

The FS-RDA will provide the central metadata catalog for all JFSP projects. Upon project completion, investigators are required to submit initial metadata along with their final report to JFSP. Investigators must use metadata standards accepted by the FS-RDA; currently the Federal Geographic Data Committee's Content Standard for Digital Geospatial Metadata - Biological Data Profile. The JFSP will review these initial metadata to ensure that all required information is provided (including a pointer to the intended archival location of the data). Projects will not be considered completed until these metadata have been reviewed and accepted by the JFSP. Failure to meet the preceding submittal requirements may affect eligibility to submit for consideration future JFSP proposals.

Submission of the project's metadata and associated data sets to the chosen repository should occur within six months of final report acceptance. For submittals to the FS-RDA, the editor-in-chief or associate editor will work with the PI to ensure final acceptability of the metadata and associated data sets. No matter the chosen repository, the PI is responsible for ensuring that final metadata are provided to the FS-RDA. For all collected, generated, or compiled data PIs must ensure that they are evaluated for errors, as well as subjected to data proofing and validation procedures, prior to submittal. The PI is responsible for keeping the metadata in the official catalog current over time.

It is JFSP's policy that PIs can limit release of data sets for up to two years following submission and acceptance of the project's final report and metadata for their personal publication in peer-reviewed journals and for quality assurance purposes. At

the end of this period, all data sets must be made publicly available no matter where they are archived.

6. Indirect Costs

Required Indirect Cost Statement and Documentation:

All applicants must include in their budget justification narrative the following indirect cost rate statement and attach to their application any required documentation identified in the applicable statement:

A [insert your organization type] that is submitting this proposal for consideration under the "Wildland Fire Research and Studies" which has a Department of the Interior-approved indirect cost rate cap of 20% rate. If we have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must apply this reduced rate against the same direct cost base as identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. If we do not have an approved indirect cost rate with our cognizant agency, we understand that we must charge indirect costs against the modified total direct cost base defined in 2 CFR 200.68 "Modified Total Direct Cost (MTDC)". We understand that we must request prior approval from the BLM to use the 2 CFR 200 MTDC base instead of the base identified in our approved indirect cost rate agreement. We understand that BLM approval of such a request will be based on: 1) a determination that our approved base is only a subset of the MTDC (such as salaries and wages); and 2) that use of the MTDC base will still result in a reduction of the total indirect costs to be charged to the award. In accordance with 2 CFR 200.405, we understand that indirect costs not recovered due to a voluntary reduction to our federally negotiated rate are not allowable for recovery via any other means.

7. Single Audit Reporting Statement

All U.S. states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and non-profit organizations expending $750,000 USD or more in Federal award funds in the applicant's fiscal year must submit a Single Audit report for that year through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse's Internet Data Entry System. U.S. state, local government, federally recognized Indian tribal government, and non-profit applicants must state if your organization was or was not required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year. If your organization was required to submit a Single Audit report for the most recently closed fiscal year, provide the EIN associated with that report and state if it is available through the Federal Audit Clearinghouse website.

8. Certification Regarding Lobbying

Applicants requesting more than $100,000 in Federal funding must certify to the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A-Certification Regarding Lobbying. If this application requests more than $100,000 in Federal funds, and is ultimately funded via cooperative agreement the Authorized Official's signature on the appropriate SF-424, Application for Federal Assistance form will be required when submitted at a later date and will also represents the entity's certification of the statements in 43 CFR Part 18, Appendix A.

9. Disclosure of Lobbying Activities

Applicants and recipients must not use any federally appropriated funds (annually appropriated or continuing appropriations) or matching funds under a Federal award to pay any person for lobbying in connection with the award. Lobbying is influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any U.S. agency, a Member of the U.S. Congress, an officer or employee of the U.S. Congress, or an employee of a Member of the U.S. Congress connection with the award. Applicants and recipients must complete and submit the SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities if the Federal share of the proposal or award is more than $100,000 and the applicant or recipient has made or has agreed to make any payment using non-appropriated funds for lobbying in connection with the application or award. See 43 CFR, Subpart 18.100 for more information on when additional submission of this form is required.

10. Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement

Bureau of Land Management will not fund any project for which any overlap (duplication of effort) exists between this Federal application and any other Federal application, or funded project, in regards to activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel.

11. APPLICANTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING FORMS :

If a proposal is selected for funding and the award mechanism is a cooperative agreement the following forms will be required at a later date by the issuing Grants Management Officer:

Form Name and Number	✓
SF-424 Application for Federal Assistance	
SF-424A Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs	
SF-LLL, Disclosure of Lobbying Activities (when applicable)	
Project Proposal	
Budget Detail	
Indirect Cost Statement and related Federal Agency-approved Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) (when applicable)	
Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement	
Conflict of Interest Disclosure (when applicable)	
Single Audit Reporting Statement (when applicable)	

NOTE: Failure to provide complete information may cause delays, postponement, or rejection of the application.

V. Submission Requirements

Proposals must meet all of the following requirements to be considered. Incomplete proposals will not be considered. No exceptions will be made to either the submission deadline or other submission requirements.

A. Proposal Submission

Proposals must be submitted electronically via the JFSP website (www.firescience.gov). **Proposals cannot be submitted in Grants.gov**. Hard copy, email, or facsimile proposals will not be accepted. Proposals can be created in the database at any time and saved as a draft for submission any time prior to the closing date and time.

- A JFSP database login and password is required to submit a proposal (see section b below). Requests for profiles will be processed in approximately 24 hours.
- The Budget contact must sign into the system and certify the budget is correct before the proposal can be submitted. **Note that the PI will not be able to complete this task for the Budget contact**. The PI must assign this contact on the contact tab before the Budget contact can sign in to complete this process.
- The Agreements contact must sign into the system and certify the budget is correct before the proposal can be submitted. **Note that the PI will not be able to complete this task for the Agreements contact**. The PI must assign this contact on the contact tab before the Agreements contact can sign in to complete this process. Only the PI can submit the proposal.
- Proposals can be saved in the JFSP system and submitted prior to the closing date and time. Submitted proposals can be reverted back to Final Draft by the PI prior to the closing date. If you revert a proposal back to Final Draft you must resubmit the proposal before the closing date and time.
- The JFSP proposal submittal system will not allow proposals to be submitted after the closing date and time.

B. Profiles

- **All** contacts must have a profile in the JFSP database that must be entered on the contacts tab by the PI.
- Proposals cannot be submitted if all required contacts (see Contacts below) are not entered on the contacts tab by the PI.
- It can take up to 24 hours to get a profile created. It is advisable to request profiles early in the process.
- To request a profile or password reset go to the JFSP website and click on the sign in link in the upper right hand corner of the page. Use the appropriate link for requesting a password reset or requesting a new user registration.

C. Contacts

Proposals may be required to have the following contacts on the contacts tab (see Section IX. Other Information for definitions to understand the role of each contact) assigned to a proposal:

- Principal Investigator (required, only one Principal Investigator can be assigned)
- Student Investigator (required)
- Funding Cooperator (may be required, see Section III. A)
- Budget Contact (required); in some cases this may be the same as the Agreements contact
- Agreements Contact (required); in some cases this may be the same as the Budget Contact
- Co-PIs and Collaborators (required, when applicable).

It is the PI's responsibility to ensure all correct contacts are entered into the proposal database. Please read Section IX. Other Information for definitions carefully to ensure you have the correct contact from the correct institution listed.

D. Confirmation Page

When the PI submits the proposal they will receive a confirmation page. It is highly recommended that PIs save or print that page for their records. If this confirmation page is not received the proposal has not been submitted correctly. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure the proposal has been submitted correctly by the closing date and time.

E. Abstract

Proposers must copy and paste the first three subsections of the proposal overview template (Problem Statement, Objectives, and Benefits) into the Abstract field in the Details tab of the JFSP database. The Abstract will become the publicly accessible description of the project.

F. Task Statement Relevancy

Proposers must copy and paste the fourth subsection of the proposal overview template (Task Statement Relevancy) into the Task Statement Relevancy field in the Details tab.

G. Attachments

All required documents and templates must be attached before the proposal can be submitted. All attachments except the budget must be attached as an adobe pdf document; the budget template is in an Excel format. The PI should ensure that no loss of information occurred upon conversion to a pdf document. Attachments over the page limits cannot be submitted. All information in a template must be included as part of that attachment and must be within the page limit. Extraneous materials (e.g., extra graphs and text) are not permitted and will not be reviewed.

Required attachments for all proposals must use templates provided to be considered:

- Proposal overview
- Proposal body
- Literature cited
- Certification by Advisor
- Budget spreadsheet (Excel spreadsheet, include a separate worksheet for each institution or contract requesting funding greater than $10,000)
- Budget narrative (explanation of specific budget assumptions and costs)
- Data Management Plan (see below)
- Letter from student's advisor (see task description)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) for PIs, Student Investigator, and Co-PIs (two pages maximum for each person; include relevant publications)

Additional attachments:

- Letter(s) of support (optional, but recommended)
- List of acronyms (optional, but recommended)
- Specific to a task statement (check this year's task statement for additional requirements, if any)

H. Data Management Plan

All proposals are required to submit a Data Management Plan (DMP) using the instructions, template, and example provided (See Section IV.B.5) above).

I. Budget

Budget summary numbers summarized by institution type requesting funds must be entered in the JFSP database on the Budget tab. The budget spreadsheet and budget narrative must be attached on the attachments tab using the spreadsheet template provided.

Proposals cannot be submitted without completing these required fields and attachments. Do not edit spreadsheet formulas and formatting without first contacting Becky Jenison (bjenison@blm.gov).

J. Task Statement Intent

Proposals that do not clearly and directly meet the intent of the task statement will not be forwarded to peer review or considered for funding. The PI for a proposal that does not meet the intent of the task statement will receive a rejection notice after the administrative review has been completed. In addition, PIs should ensure they are submitting their proposal for the correct task statement in the JFSP database.

K. Format

Proposals not following the required template(s) will not be considered. Proposals must use an 11 point font or larger. Additional guidance is included in the beginning of each template.

L. Page Limits

Attachments exceeding the page limits cannot be submitted. Check the page limit in the template and JFSP database. Everything required as part of the template is included in the page limit.

M. Project Location

Project location fields must be completed on the location tab for a proposal to be successfully submitted. Instructions are listed on the project location tab.

N. Signatures

Handwritten signatures are not required. When Principal Investigators (PIs) submit proposals they will be prompted to enter their password. By typing in the password and submitting a proposal, PIs are certifying that all contacts on the proposal have reviewed the proposal and understand the requirements of their respective roles.

O. Indirect Costs

Proposals must follow JFSP indirect cost guidelines. (See Section III. C above)

P. Contributed Costs

See Section III. B above.

Q. Support Letters

Support letters are encouraged, but not required. Support letters are useful if they show understanding of the proposed work and the letter author articulates how the work will benefit them. Support letters that appear to be ghost-written by the PI or are form letters are much less useful. If submitted, letters must be combined into one pdf document and attached on the attachments tab. Support letters sent by hard copy or email directly to JFSP will not be considered.

R. Past-Due Projects

The JFSP past-due and extension policy does not apply to GRIN submissions. Note that

this is for GRIN proposals only.

VI. APPLICATION REVIEW INFORMATION

A. SAM.gov Registration

The BLM may not make a Federal award to an applicant that has not completed the SAM.gov registration. If an applicant selected for funding has not completed their SAM.gov registration by the time the BLM is ready to make an award, the program may determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award. The program can use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

B. Automated Standard Application for Payment (ASAP)

Projects awarded via cooperative agreement cannot be finalized until awardee finalizes their enrollment in the Department of the Treasury, ASAP System. See the following website: http://www.fms.treas.gov/asap.

If your organization is not enrolled in ASAP contact the GMO in Section VIII. Federal Awarding Agency Contacts of this funding opportunity.

C. Review and Section Process:

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals that do not meet the requirements of this FOA and are determined to be outside the scope of the authority under which this announcement is posted.

The evaluation process will consist of the following four screening levels:

1. First Level Screening—Basic Eligibility

a. Applications will be screened to ensure that applications meet basic eligibility requirements. Depending on the specifics of the opportunity, screening may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1) Program administrative requirements are met, including task statement intent;

2) Submission is timely;

3) Complete and properly executed application package documents (see Sections IV and V) are included;

b. Applications must satisfy basic eligibility screening requirements to be considered for further review.

Note: The relevancy check includes assessing whether the proposal (1) responds to the intent of the task statement and (2) falls within JFSP's mission to support fundamental and applied research and science delivery. The relevancy check is a threshold review and if determined not to be relevant, no further evaluation of the proposal will occur.

2. Second Level Evaluation—Merit Review Evaluation via External Peer Review

Review Criteria

Note: Review criteria are not arithmetically scored or weighted. Applicants, however,

should note that the scientific merit criterion is given particular attention. Proposals that do not receive strong scientific merit reviews are unlikely to be funded.

Student Qualifications

- Academic
- Work experience
- Research experience

Scientific Merit

- Potential contribution to scientific understanding
- Merit of hypothesis, question, or objective
- Tied to state of the science
- Well described and appropriate methods
- Creativity

Management/Policy Relevance and Science Delivery

- Utility of results to managers/decision-makers
- Communication with managers
- Effective delivery of project outcomes to end users
- Management/policy-oriented tool or summary guide is included as a deliverable

Linkage to Ongoing or Planned Thesis or Dissertation

- Ongoing or planned thesis or dissertation clearly described
- Proposed work extends and enhances thesis/dissertation

Feasibility

- Administrative adequacy
- Budget
- Skills and qualifications
- Schedule
- Barriers to execution and contingencies
- Necessary manager/scientist and scientist/scientist relationships

3. Third Level Review—Program Review

The JFSP Office and Governing Board assess the external peer review. The Board makes selection decisions based on the peer review and programmatic priorities.

4. Fourth Level Review—Pre-award Clearance and Approvals

Following the described preceding, three-level review process above, BLM also will complete a business evaluation and determination of responsibility. During these evaluations the Grants Management Officer will evaluate variables such as:

a. Risk Management. The BLM uses a risk-based approach to evaluate the risk posed by the supporting applicants' projects before it awards Federal funds.

1) BLM is required to review information available through OMB-designated eligibility and/or financial integrity databases, such as the Federal

Awardee Performance and Integrity Information System (FAPIIS). The BLM considers factors such as:

(a) Financial stability;

(b) Quality of management systems;

(c) History of performance managing Federal awards, timeliness of compliance with reporting requirements, conformance to the terms and conditions of previous Federal awards, etc.;

(d) Reports and findings from audits performed; and

(e) The applicant's ability to effectively implement statutory, regulatory, or other requirements imposed on non-Federal entities.

2) Budget review is based on the following:

(a) Budget line items must be allowable, allocable, reasonable in price, and appropriate for the level of effort needed to accomplish the project

(b) Budget details and narrative must provide adequate explanation of, and justification for, each estimated cost

(c) Requested equipment must be justified and necessary for completion of the project

(d) Cost Sharing/Matching funds must not come from Federal funds

If the results of all pre-award reviews and clearances are satisfactory, an award of funding will be made once the agreement is finalized. If the BLM determines that a Federal award will be made, special conditions that correspond to the degree of risk assessed may be applied to the Federal award

If the results of pre-award reviews and clearances are unsatisfactory, consideration of funding for the project may be withdrawn.

5. Application Selection Process

a. Applications eligible for merit review will be evaluated by a peer review panel assembled to review, rate, and recommend applications to the JFSP Governing Board for final selection using the above evaluation criteria.

b. Reviews are treated as confidential documents. Once award decisions are made, applicants will be able to see reviews through the JFSP proposal database.

VII. FEDERAL AWARD ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION

A. Federal Award Notices

Awards are based on the application submitted to and approved by the BLM and are subject to the terms and conditions incorporated into the Notice of Award either by direct citation or by reference to the following: Federal regulations; program legislation or regulation; and special award terms and conditions. Recipient acceptance of a Federal award from the BLM carries with it the responsibility to be aware of and comply with all terms and conditions applicable to the award. Recipients indicate their acceptance of the Federal award by starting work, drawing down funds, or accepting the award via electronic means.

B. Award Terms and Conditions

See the BLM "Financial Assistance Award Terms and Conditions" for the administrative and national policy requirements applicable to BLM awards.

C. Payments

Domestic recipients funded via cooperative agreement are required to register in and receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's Automated Standard Application for Payments (ASAP), unless approved for a waiver by the BLM program. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank outside the U.S. are required to receive payment through the U.S. Treasury's International Treasury Services (ITS) System. Foreign recipients receiving funds to a final destination bank in the U.S. are required to enter and maintain current banking details in their SAM.gov entity profile and receive payment through the Automated Clearing House network by electronic funds transfer (EFT). The BLM will include recipient-specific instructions on how to request payment, including identification of any additional information required and where to submit payment requests, as applicable, in all Notices of Award.

D. Reporting Requirements

1. Financial Reports

All recipients funded via cooperative agreement must use the SF-425, Federal Financial Report form for financial reporting. At a minimum, all recipients must submit a **final** financial report. Final financial reports are due no later than 90 calendar days after the award period of performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit **interim** financial reports on the frequency established in the Notice of Award.

2. Performance Reports

At a minimum, all recipients must submit a final performance report in JFSP-specified format. Final reports are due on the agreement performance end date or termination date. For awards with periods of performance longer than 12 months, recipients are required to submit interim progress reports annually. JFSP uses the following criteria to determine if a project is complete:

- Final report:
  - Data collection must be complete
  - Data analysis must be complete
  - Results, conclusions, and implications for management implementation and future research must be complete
  - Metadata must be complete (if applicable)
- Task statement specific deliverables: If user-oriented products (e.g., user guides, fact sheets, videos) were explicitly identified in the task statement as required deliverables, they must be complete and available for upload to the JFSP website
- Software: If software was identified as a deliverable in the task statement, a working version of the software and a complete version of system documentation should be complete and available for upload to the JFSP website or preferably a hotlink provided to where the software will be hosted. Documentation should describe as appropriate any debugging procedures used to verify software performance, guidance to end-users as to application of the software, and business plans for ongoing maintenance of the software and its continued public access.

3. Real Property Reports

- Recipients and subrecipients are required to submit status reports on the status of real property in which the Federal government retains an interest. The required frequency of these reports will depend on the anticipated length of the Federal interest period. The BLM will include recipient-specific real property reporting requirements, including the required data elements, reporting frequency, and report due dates, as applicable.

4. DOI/BLM continues to improve its financial assistance program as part of these efforts below:

1. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure**
   Recipients must notify the BLM immediately in writing of any actual or potential conflicts of interest that arise during the life of their Federal award

   Applicability
   - This section intends to ensure that non-Federal entities and their employees take appropriate steps to avoid conflicts of interest in their responsibilities under or with respect to Federal financial assistance agreements.
   - In the procurement of supplies, equipment, construction, and BLMs by recipients and by subrecipients, the conflict of interest provisions in 2 CFR 200.318 apply.

   Requirements

- Non-Federal entities must avoid prohibited conflicts of interest, including any significant financial interests that could cause a reasonable person to question the recipient's ability to provide impartial, technically sound, and objective performance under or with respect to a Federal financial assistance agreement
- In addition to any other prohibitions that may apply with respect to conflicts of interest, no key official of an actual or proposed recipient or subrecipient, who is substantially involved in the proposal or project, may have been a former Federal employee who, within the last one (1) year, participated personally and substantially in the evaluation, award, or administration of an award with respect to that recipient or subrecipient or in development of the requirement leading to the funding announcement.
- No actual or prospective recipient or subrecipient may solicit, obtain, or use non-public information regarding the evaluation, award, or administration of an award to that recipient or subrecipient or the development of a Federal financial assistance opportunity that may be of competitive interest to that recipient or subrecipient.

Notification

- Non-Federal entities, including applicants for financial assistance awards, must disclose in writing any conflict of interest to the BLM Grants Management Office or pass-through entity in accordance with 2 CFR 200.112, Conflicts of Interest.
- Recipients must establish internal controls that include, at a minimum, procedures to identify, disclose, and mitigate or eliminate identified conflicts of interest. The recipient is responsible for notifying the Grants Management Officer in writing of any conflicts of interest that may arise during the life of the award, including those that have been reported by subrecipients.
- Restrictions on Lobbying. Non-Federal entities are strictly prohibited from using funds under this grant or cooperative agreement for lobbying activities and must provide the required certifications and disclosures pursuant to 43 CFR Part 18 and 31 USC 1352.
- Review Procedures. The Grants Management Officer will examine each conflict of interest disclosure on the basis of its particular facts and the nature of the proposed grant or cooperative agreement, and will determine whether a significant potential conflict exists and, if it does, develop an appropriate means for resolving it.
- Enforcement. Failure to resolve conflicts of interest in a manner that satisfies the Government may be cause for termination of the award. Failure to make required disclosures may result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338, Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment (see also 2 CFR Part 180).

2. **Data Availability**

General Applicability.

- The Department of the Interior is committed to basing its decisions on the best available science and providing the American people with enough information to thoughtfully and substantively evaluate the data, methodology, and analysis used by the Department to inform its decisions.

- Use of Data. The regulations at 2 CFR 200.315 apply to data produced under a Federal award, including the provision that the Federal Government has the right to obtain, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use the data produced under a Federal award as well as authorize others to receive, reproduce, publish, or otherwise use such data for Federal purposes.

General Availability of Data.
The recipient shall make the data produced under this award and any sub award(s) available to the Government for public release, consistent with applicable law, to allow meaningful third party evaluation and reproduction of the following:

- The scientific data relied upon;
- The analysis relied upon; and
- The methodology, including models, used to gather and analyze data.

JFSP Specific Requirements: See Section IV.B.5.

3. **Other Mandatory Disclosures**
The non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Non-Federal entities that receive a Federal award including the term and condition outlined in 2 CFR 200, Appendix XII—Award Term and Condition for Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters are required to report certain civil, criminal, or administrative proceedings to SAM. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in 2 CFR 200.338 Remedies for Noncompliance, including suspension or debarment.

E. Special Award Terms and Conditions

1. Scientific integrity is vital to Department of the Interior (DOI) activities under which scientific research, data, summaries, syntheses, interpretations, presentations, and/or publications are developed and used. Failure to uphold the highest degree of scientific integrity will result in not only in potentially flawed scientific results, interpretations, and applications but will damage DOI's reputation and ability to uphold the public's trust. All work performed must comply with the DOI Scientific Integrity Policy posted to http://www.doi.gov, or its equivalent as provided by their organization or State law. For more information go to URL: https://www.doi.gov/scientificintegrity**.**

2. **Liability, Insurance, and Indemnification**.
Recipients of awards arising from this announcement will be required to agree to the following:
   a. **Liability.** The BLM assumes no liability for any actions, activities conducted under this agreement except to the extent that recourse, or Congress under the Federal Tort Claims Act, 28 USC 2671, provides remedies.

b. **Indemnification**. To indemnify the federal government, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), from any act or omission of the recipient, its officers, employees, or (members, participants, agents, representatives, as appropriate) (1) against third party claims for damages arising from one or more activities carried out in connection with this financial assistance agreement and (2) for damage or loss to government property resulting from such an activity, to the extent the laws of the State where the recipient is located permit. This obligation shall survive the termination of this agreement.

Proposals submitted and approved for use of equipment, hazardous materials or engage in high-risk activities, which have the potential for claims brought by third parties for death, bodily injury, property damage, or other loss resulting in one or more activities must purchase additional insurance and liability.

Flow-down includes recipient and such sub-recipients, contractors, or subcontractors as, in the judgment of the recipient and subject to the Government's determination of sufficiency, have sufficient resources and/or maintain adequate and appropriate insurance to achieve the purposes of this clause.

3. **Recipient/Sub-recipient Personnel Security and Suitability Requirements**.

a. If performance of a grant/cooperative agreement awarded under this FOA requires recipient/sub-recipient personnel to have a Federal government-issued personal identification card before being allowed unsupervised access to a DOI facility and/or information system, the Program Officer will be the sponsoring official, and will make the arrangements for personal identity verification and card issuance.

b. At least two weeks before start of a grant/cooperative agreement performance awarded under this FOA, the recipient will identify all recipient and sub-recipient personnel who will require physical and/or logical access for performance of work under this grant/cooperative agreement. The recipient and sub-recipient must make their personnel available at the place and time specified by the Program Officer in order to initiate screening and background investigations. The following forms, or their equivalent, may be used to initiate the credentialing process:

- OPM Standard Form 85 or 85P
- OF 306
- Fingerprint card (local procedures may require the fingerprinting to be done at a police station; in this case, any charges are to be borne by the recipient or sub-recipient, as applicable)
- Release to Obtain Credit Information
- PIV card application (web-based)

c. Recipient and sub-recipient employees are required to give, and to authorize others to give, full, frank, and truthful answers to relevant and material questions needed to reach a suitability determination. Refusal or failure to furnish or authorize provision of information may constitute grounds for denial or revocation of credentials.

Government personnel may contact the recipient or sub-recipient personnel being screened or investigated in person, by telephone or in writing, and the recipient agrees to make them available for such contact.

d. Alternatively, if an individual has already been credentialed by another agency through OPM, and that credential has not yet expired, further clearance may not be necessary. Provide the sponsoring office with documentation that supports the individual's status.

e. During performance of a grant/cooperative agreement awarded under this FOA, the recipient will keep the Program Officer apprised of changes in personnel to ensure that performance is not delayed by compliance with credentialing processes. Cards that have been lost, damaged, or stolen must be reported to the Program Officer, Grants Management Officer, and Issuing Office within 24 hours. Replacement will be at the recipient's expense. If reissuance of expired credentials is needed, it will be coordinated through the Program Officer.

f. At the end of a grant/cooperative agreement's performance, or when a recipient/sub-recipient employee is no longer working under this grant/cooperative agreement, the recipient will ensure that all identification cards are returned to the Program Officer. Before starting work under this agreement, a National Agency Check (NAC) will be conducted to verify the identity of the individual applying for clearance. Upon successful completion of the NAC process, an identification card will be issued and access granted.

g. Simultaneously, a NAC with Inquiries (NACI) will be initiated to determine the individual's suitability for the position. If the NACI adjudication is favorable, nothing more needs to be done. If the adjudication is unfavorable, the credentials will be revoked. In the event of a disagreement between the recipient and the Government concerning the suitability of an individual to perform work under a grant/cooperative agreement, DOI shall have the right of final determination.

h. This requirement must be incorporated into any sub-grants/cooperative agreements that require sub-recipient personnel to have unsupervised access to a Federally controlled facility for more than 180 calendar days or unsupervised access to a Federally controlled Level 3 or 4 information system.

i. Federal Information Systems Security Awareness Training. Before the recipient, or any of its employees or sub-recipients, are granted access to the BLM Federal computer system, they must first successfully complete the U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) Federal Information Systems Security Awareness Online Course.

This course was designed specifically for users of Federal computer systems. The course is a Web-based training product that explains the importance of Information Systems Security and takes approximately one hour to complete. This course is mandatory for all Department of the

Interior employees, contractors, recipients, and all other users of DOI computer resources. Topics covered in the course include threats and vulnerabilities, malicious code, user responsibilities, and new developments affecting Information Systems Security.

VIII. FEDERAL AWARDING AGENCY CONTACTS

Karina Del Toro, Idaho Grant Management Office, kdeltoro@blm.gov, 208-373-3881

IX. OTHER INFORMATION

DEFINITIONS:

Agreements Contact: Person from institution receiving funds from JFSP that is responsible for facilitating the receipt of funds and the execution of any agreements necessary for a proposal if it is selected for funding. If a federal agency is requesting funds the Agreements contact must be from the federal cooperating agency.

Budget Contact: Budget contact must be from the institution receiving funds from JFSP. This person is responsible for ensuring the budget details are correct prior to proposal being submitted and agrees to receive funds and facilitate the transfer of funds, if necessary. If a federal agency is requesting funds the Budget contact must be from the federal cooperating agency.

Collaborator/Contributor: An individual that advises investigators, but is not involved at a level expected of a Co-Principal Investigator. For example, a collaborator may make recommendations on how best to involve fire and fuels managers in a project or consult regarding the statistical design of a study. Individuals that serve as an author or co-author of a manuscript for a scientific journal are normally a Co-Principal Investigator.

Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI): The individual(s) identified in a proposal who will work with the research lead on the project and makes a substantial contribution to the project. Co-PIs are responsible for communicating and coordinating with the PI.

Funding Cooperator: The funding cooperator receives funds from JFSP and is responsible for distributing funds to other cooperators. A funding cooperator is only required if the PI is non-federal and a federal institution is requesting funding, if the work is being completed through a private business, or includes international funding. The funding cooperator is responsible for coordinating with the PI, the Agreements contact, and the Budget contact on administrative activities for this project and must concur with the proposed budget. The funding cooperator is one of the primary contacts for the project and should stay informed and involved in project activities. If a federal agency is requesting funds the funding cooperator must be from the federal cooperating agency.

Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA): The official label for the Joint Fire Science Program method of requesting project proposals. The FOA includes task statements for which proposals are sought, instructions for proposal submission, and related information.

Indirect Costs: Those costs used to pay for overhead/administrative costs attributable to a specific research project. Examples include the costs of operations and maintenance such as janitorial, phone, and clerical services. The Joint Fire Science Program recognizes two types of indirect costs: 1) “in-house” costs incurred by the agency, institution, or unit

requesting funds; and 2) pass-through costs that are charged only by the PI institution or funding cooperator institution for administrative costs associated with managing sub-agreements.

Joint Fire Science Program Governing Board: An appointed 12-person Board representing the JFSP partnering agencies. The Board provides strategic direction and oversight to JFSP, identifies important research questions, and, in coordination with the Program Office, selects proposals for funding.

Principal Investigator (PI): The individual identified in a proposal who is the research lead for the project. This individual is responsible for coordinating all research related activities and will be the primary science contact for the project. In addition, the PI is responsible for communicating and coordinating with Co-PIs and others on the research team. The PI is responsible to JFSP for completion of the project as determined by submission of all required deliverables.

Science Exchange, Delivery and Application: The exchange of information, materials, models and other research deliverables to end users, along with adequate information and training to apply the deliverables. Examples of active methods include workshops, training sessions, guided field tours, conferences, meetings, and symposia. Examples of passive methods include published papers and websites. A combination of active and passive methods is preferred. Collaboration with the JFSP Fire Exchange Network is recommended https://www.firescience.gov/JFSP_exchanges.cfm.

Student Investigator (relevant to the GRIN announcement only): A current student with an approved dissertation or thesis plan responsible for leading and delivering the research proposed in a GRIN proposal.

Task Statement: A specific area of interest identified in the FOA, for which project applications are sought.

END
FUNDING OPPORTUNITY ANNOUNCEMENT