



NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD

This Funding Announcement is not a request for applications. This announcement is to provide public notice of the U.S. Geological Survey's intention to fund the following project activities without full and open competition.

ABSTRACT	
Funding Announcement	<i>USGS-19-FA-0034</i>
Project Title	Understanding mechanisms of fire-caused vegetation type conversion in Southwestern conifer forests under current and future climate
Recipient	University of Arizona
Principal Investigator / Program Manager	Donald Falk
Anticipated Federal Amount	(\$12,702.13 Budget Year 1)
Cost Share	<i>\$0.00</i>
Total Anticipated Award Amount	\$44,995.46
New Award or Continuation?	New Award
Anticipated Period of Performance	March 1, 2019 to February 28, 2022 (3 years)
Award Instrument	Grant
CFDA # and Title	15.820 NCCWSC CSCs
USGS Point of Contact	Stephen T. Jackson, stjackson@usgs.gov and Carolyn Enquist, cenquist@usgs.gov

OVERVIEW

The project will create a peer-reviewed, state-of-the-science synthesis publication on the mechanisms of resilience and VTC response, highlighting current gaps in our understanding of fire-driven vegetation-type conversion in coniferous forests of the Southwest; identify and explore modeling approaches to vegetation type conversion; and , create a management brief describing key climate and non-climate vulnerabilities and effective adaptation options and examples.

RECIPIENT INVOLVEMENT

The Recipient will: (1) assess the extent, magnitude, and nature of conversions of conifer forests to shrublands or woodlands following fire, (2) compile case studies of fire-caused conversions (and non-conversions where forests successfully regenerated), and (3) identify critical climatological factors (e.g., extremes) and ecological mechanisms underlying conversions and non-conversions. These findings will provide a foundation for guidelines and tools to aid NPS, BLM, FWS, Forest Service, and state-agency managers in planning and decisions.

USGS INVOLVEMENT

There will be no substantial involvement by the USGS in the Recipient's performance of this Agreement. The project will be carried out by the recipient. Staff at the Southwest Climate Adaptation Science Center will work closely with the recipient on all phases of the project. New knowledge and products produced from this new project will be shared with the SW CASC, and will be developed in partnership with SW CASC staff.

SINGLE-SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR SINGLE SOURCE POLICY REQUIREMENTS

Department of the Interior Policy (505 DM 2) requires a written justification which explains why competition is not practicable for each single-source award. The justification must address one or more of the following criteria as well as discussion of the program legislative history, unique capabilities of the proposed recipient, and cost-sharing contribution offered by the proposed recipient, as applicable.

In order for an assistance award to be made without competition, the award must satisfy one or more of the following criteria: ***select those which apply- needs to match the sole source document***

- (1) **Unsolicited Proposal** – The proposed award is the result of an unsolicited assistance application which represents a unique or innovative idea, method, or approach which is not the subject of a current or planned contract or assistance award, but which is deemed advantageous to the program objectives;
- (2) Continuation – The activity to be funded is necessary to the satisfactory completion of, or is a continuation of an activity presently being funded, and for which competition would have a significant adverse effect on the continuity or completion of the activity;
- (3) Legislative intent – The language in the applicable authorizing legislation or legislative history clearly indicates Congress' intent to restrict the award to a particular recipient of purpose;

- (4) **Unique Qualifications** – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as location, property ownership, voluntary support capacity, cost-sharing ability if applicable, technical expertise, or other such unique qualifications;
- (5) **Emergencies** – Program/award where there is insufficient time available (due to a compelling and unusual urgency, or substantial danger to health or safety) for adequate competitive procedures to be followed.
- (6) **Cooperative Agreements** - USGS Unique Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 36d (Federal, State, and academic partners) or DOI Authority cited at 43 U.S.C. 1457b (not-for-profit organizations).

USGS did not solicit full and open competition for this award based the following criteria:

Single Source Justification Description:

- (1) **Unsolicited Proposal** – The recipient possesses unique capabilities for assessing the extent and nature of conversions from conifer forest to shrublands and woodlands, which is deemed advantageous to reaching the program objectives of the SW CSC.
- (2) **Unique Qualifications** – The applicant is uniquely qualified to perform the activity based upon a variety of demonstrable factors such as technical expertise and analytical capabilities.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY

43 USC 31 and the Administrative Provisions of P.L. 116-6 and Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008, Div., F, Title I, P.L. 110-161