Renewable Resource Extension Act – National Focus Fund Projects (RREA-NFF)

FY 2019 Request for Applications (RFA)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: June 21, 2019

ELIGIBILITY: See Part III, A of RFA

United States Department of Agriculture

National Institute of Food and Agriculture

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RENEWABLE RESOURCES EXTENSION ACT – NATIONAL FOCUS FUND PROJECTS

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Assistance Listings under the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number 10.515.

DATES: Applications must be received by **5 p.m. Eastern Time** on June 21, 2019 **(60 days after posting).** Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding (see Part IV, C of this RFA). Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) seek your comments about this RFA. We will consider your comments when we develop the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and we'll use them to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). Submit your written stakeholder comments by **June 18, 2018** (**60 days after posting**) via email to Policy@nifa.usda.gov. (This email address is only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and *not* for requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the Renewable Resource Extension Act – National Focus Fund Projects RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NIFA requests applications for the Renewable Resource Extension Act (RREA) – National Focus Fund Projects (NFF) for fiscal year (FY) 2019 to provide for expanded and comprehensive extension programs for forest and rangeland renewable resources at a national, regional, or institutional level. The anticipated amount available for grants in FY 2019 is approximately $300,000.

This notice identifies the objectives for RREA-NFF projects, deadline dates, funding information, eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a RREA-NFF grant.

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority

The Renewable Resources Extension Act (RREA) of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-306, 92 Stat. 349, 16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.) provides for an expanded and comprehensive extension program for forest and rangeland renewable resources. For FY 2019 the available amount for NFF grants is approximately $300,000. RREA-NFF funds are used to support projects at a national or regional scale which expand the reach of Extension forestry and rangeland programs through better program coordination and delivery, use of innovative technologies, and Extension program models that can be easily replicated by other institutions and regions.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The goal of the NFF program is to enhance the sustainability of the nation's forest and rangeland resources and to enable landowners and managers to achieve their desired goals and objectives by making resource management decisions based on sound research findings. Forest and rangeland resources include vegetation, water, fisheries and wildlife, soil, and recreation. These projects must maximize the capacity, reach, and impact of the Cooperative Extension System – Extension Forestry and Rangeland Programs and must directly work across State boundaries to share expertise to address common problems (Priority 1) or develop and demonstrate a pilot project with researchers for knowledge transfer (Priority 2). The NFF addresses the sustainable use of natural resources by providing funding to the Cooperative Extension System to conduct educational programs for private forestland owners that contribute to well-managed forests and the nation's and world's fiber supply in support of rural economic systems.

The FY 2019 RREA-NFF focus areas support stakeholders input and the RREA Strategic Plan FY 2018-2022. RREA-NFF is also aligned with the USDA Strategic Plan, specifically addressing the following Strategic Goal: Strategic Goal 5: Strengthen the Stewardship of Private Lands Through Technology and Research.

Priority Areas:

NIFA is soliciting applications for projects for the RREA-NFF under the following areas:

1. **Regional/National Projects: The Nexus of Critical Forest and Rangeland Resources Issues, Innovative Approaches to Program Delivery, and Current Knowledge about Non-Formal Adult Education**

The context in which Extension forest and rangeland resources educator's work continues to evolve: There are pressing resource issues that develop on land that transcend boundaries, there are new tools and techniques to deliver programs, and today's adult learners have different expectations and learning preferences than past generations. RREA National Focus Fund (RREA-NFF) Regional/National Projects must take into account these three aspects to foster collaborative multi-state efforts among Extension educators to address issues that are regional or national in scale by sharing unique areas of knowledge and expertise. Projects must: 1) Involve active participation (planning, delivering, evaluating) by a minimum of three states, 2) Directly support forest and rangeland owner issues and needs; 3) Either be new and unproven, but theoretically sound, or represent a significant change to an existing national or regional project,

and 4) address one or more of the forest and rangeland resource issues in the current RREA Strategic Plan, FY 2018-2022.

Active participation is defined as direct involvement in planning, delivering, and/or evaluating the program, and related activities (e.g., website development, electronic or print publications, social media use, etc.) and must be described in a letter on university letterhead from each participating state (not included in the maximum 20-page narrative described in Part IV, Section B). *Regional/National Awards*: Maximum of 2 at $100,000 each. *Project Duration*: 24 months.

2. Ensuring the Transfer of New Knowledge to Forest and Rangeland Owners and Managers

The mission of Extension is to transfer and translate research-based information to those who can use it to improve their livelihood. But too often the research and extension enterprises operate independently and separately. The result is that new knowledge may or may not be relevant, and may or may not be transferred and applied by forest and rangeland owners and managers. The current 700+ McIntire-Stennis Forestry Research Projects and numerous rangeland research projects being conducted at institutions may or may not have a mechanism to accomplish the science delivery and technology transfer to stakeholders who need the information in order to achieve the land ownership goals. Extension is critical to science delivery so that it has impacts. This priority calls for Extension educators and research scientists to collaborate in transferring newly discovered (within the previous three years) knowledge to stakeholders.

These projects are intended to demonstrate: 1) a more immediate and proactive approach to transferring recently discovered knowledge to end users, and 2) how research and Extension programs – each with their own designated funding purposes – can create a seamless knowledge discovery and application enterprise. These are intended to be small scale, demonstration projects, and as such they may be single state/institution projects.

Projects must: 1) succinctly describe the new knowledge that has been discovered in the previous three years and published; 2) describe how the scientist(s) who carried out the research will be involved; 3) describe a new and innovative approach to rapid diffusion of new knowledge, and 4) demonstrate the value and effectiveness of research and extension programs working together to discover and transfer new knowledge. *Knowledge Transfer Awards: Maximum of 2 projects at $50,000 each. Project duration: 24 hrs. months.*

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

The anticipated amount available for RREA-NFF grants in FY 2019 is approximately *$300,000*. There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. The Automated Standard Applications for Payment System (ASAP), operated by the Department of Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service, is the designated payment system for awards resulting from this RFA. For more information see Automated Standard Application for Payments.

B. Types of Applications

In FY 2019, you may submit applications to the RREA-NFF Program as one of the following types of requests:

New application. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to RREA-NFF Program. We will review all new applications competitively using the screening for administrative requirements, review panel evaluation of proposals using evaluation criteria and selection process described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

Resubmitted application. This is an application that had previously been submitted to the NIFA but not funded. Project Directors (PDs) must respond to the previous review panel summary (see Response to Previous Review, Part IV). We must receive resubmitted applications by the relevant due dates. Resubmitted applications must align with FY 2019 RREA-NFF priorities. We will evaluate resubmitted applications in competition with other pending applications in the appropriate area to which they are assigned and review them according to the same evaluation criteria (Part V, B) as new applications. If you are submitting a resubmission application, enter the NIFA-assigned proposal number of the previously-submitted application in the Federal field (Field 4 on the form).

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may only be submitted by 1862 (7 CFR 3430.2, 7 U.S.C. 301 et seq; and 7 U.S.C. 7601(1)) and 1890 land-grant institutions (7 U.S.C. 7601(2) and 7 CFR3430.2). Project Directors must have an extension appointment. An extension appointment is a formal appointment by an Extension Director/Administrator in the institution's cooperative extension service. Failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the application deadline may result in the application being excluded from consideration or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude NIFA from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

NIFA does not require matching support for this program and matching resources will not be factored into the review process as evaluation criteria.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Electronic Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to NIFA in response to this RFA. We urge you to submit early to the Grants.gov system. For information about the pre-award phase of the grant lifecycle see Grants 101.

New Users of Grants.gov

Prior to preparing an application, we recommend that the Project Director/Principal Investigator (PD/PI) first contact an Authorized Representative (AR, also referred to as Authorized Organizational Representative, or AOR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grants.gov. If not (e.g., the institution/organization is new to the electronic grant application process through Grants.gov), then the one-time registration process must be completed **PRIOR** to submitting an application. It can take as long as two weeks to complete the registration process so it is critical to begin as soon as possible. In such situations, the AR should go to **"Register," in the top right corner of the Grants.gov web page (or go to** Grants Registration Portal**), for information on registering the institution/organization with Grants.gov.** Part II,1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide contains detailed information regarding the registration process. Refer to item 2, below, to locate the "NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide."

Steps to Obtain Application Package Materials

To receive application materials:

1. You must download and install a version of Adobe Reader compatible with Grants.gov to access, complete, and submit applications. For basic system requirements and download instructions, see Adobe Software Compatibility. Grants.gov has a test package that will help you determine whether your current version of Adobe Reader is compatible.

2. To obtain the application package from Grants.gov, go to Opportunity Package Search and enter the funding opportunity number where appropriate. **Funding Opportunity Number: USDA-NIFA-OP-006743**

   Click "Search." On the displayed page, click the corresponding link to continue. A Grant Application Package is tied to a particular funding opportunity. You may move forms amongst different Grant Application Packages but you may ONLY submit an application to the particular funding opportunity to which the Grant Application Package is associated. Contained within the application package is the "NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide." This guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

   If you require assistance to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating Adobe forms) or submitting the application, refer to resources available on the

Grants.gov website (https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support.html). Grants.gov assistance is also available at:

Grants.gov customer support
800-518-4726 Toll-Free or 606-545-5035
Business Hours: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Closed on federal holidays.
Email: support@grants.gov

Grants.gov iPortal (see https://grants-portal.psc.gov/Welcome.aspx?pt=Grants): Top 10 requested help topics (FAQs), Searchable knowledge base, self-service ticketing and ticket status, and live web chat (available 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. ET).
Have the following information available when contacting Grants.gov:

- Funding Opportunity Number (FON)
- Name of agency you are applying to
- Specific area of concern

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Electronic applications are to be prepared following Parts V and VI of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A of this part). The following is additional information you need to prepare an application in response to this RFA. *If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.*

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., PDF) in Part III, Section 3 of the guide. ANY PROPOSALS THAT ARE NON-COMPLIANT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS (e.g., content format, PDF file format, file name restrictions, and no password protected files) WILL BE AT RISK OF BEING EXCLUDED FROM NIFA REVIEW. Grants.gov does not check for NIFA required attachments or whether attachments are in PDF format; see Part III, Section 6.1 of the guide for how to check the manifest of submitted files. Partial applications will be excluded from NIFA review. We will accept subsequent submissions of an application until close of business on the closing date in the RFA (see Part V, 2.1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further information).

For any questions related to the preparation of an application, review the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide and the applicable RFA. If assistance is still needed for preparing application forms content, contact:

- Email: electronic@nifa.usda.gov
- Phone: 202-401-5048
- Business hours: Monday through Friday, 7 a.m. – 5 p.m. ET, excluding federal holidays.

1. SF 424 R&R Cover Sheet

Information related to the questions on this form is dealt with in detail in Part V, 2 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. See Part V, Section 2.18 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for the required certifications and assurances (e.g., Prohibition Against Entities Requiring Certain Internal Confidentiality Agreements).

2. SF 424 R&R Project/Performance Site Location(s)

Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V, 3 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

3. R&R Other Project Information Form

Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V, 4 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. Field 7. Project Summary/Abstract.

The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of RREA-NFF. See Part V. 4.7 of NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

b. Field 8. Project Narrative.

NOTE: The Project Narrative may not exceed a total of 18 pages with 12-point font and line spacing not exceeding six lines of text per vertical inch, including all figures and tables. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

Title. Provide an appropriate title for the project.

Subtitle. State the Priority Area (from Part I, Section B) that the proposal addresses.

Introduction. The introduction should include a clear statement of the long-term goal(s) and supporting objectives for the proposed project, and the nature of the issue that the project is intended to address. Additionally, the first sentence of the Introduction must specifically state the RREA cross-cutting issue(s) being addressed (refer to FY 2012-2016 RREA Strategic Plan).

Justification, Rationale, and Significance. Concisely present the justification for why this project is important to forest and rangeland owners at a national or regional scale and how they will benefit. New and innovative ideas, program delivery approaches, or products should be clearly and explicitly described. Demonstrate the feasibility of the proposed project through preliminary data.

Relevant Literature Review. Provide a narrowly-focused and concise review of relevant literature that supports the need and importance of the project (not to exceed 4 pages). For Priority #2, "**Ensuring the Transfer of New Knowledge to Forest and Rangeland Owners and Managers," the literature review must include explicit and complete references to new, published information that will be the focus of the Priority #2 project being proposed**

Objectives. Include clear, concise, complete and logically arranged objective statements.

Approach. This section must include:

- Who are the project stakeholders and how they will be involved in the project and its evaluation;
- An Extension logic model (in the form of a figure) for the proposed project and a narrative description of the inputs, outputs, participants, short- and medium-term outcomes, and projected/estimated impacts (long-term outcomes).
- A description of the proposed outputs and activities and the sequence in which the activities are to be performed;
- How, when, and where the activities will be provided;

- Expected outputs;
- Expected outcomes;
- A timeline for the project; and
- A detailed evaluation plan for the project:
    - For outputs, activities, participants, outputs, and outcomes – what will be measured, how, and when; and
    - How the evaluation results will be reported, where, and to whom.

Project Sustainability and Replication (if applicable). Describe plans for assisting other institutions/states/regions in replicating the project. Describe any plans for sustaining the project beyond the project period.

c. Field 12. Add Other Attachments
See Part V. Section 4.12 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide (Field 12 on the form) for instructions for this field.

Data Management Plan. A Data Management Plan (DMP) is required and is to clearly articulate how the project director (PD) and co-PDs plan to manage and disseminate the data generated by the project. The DMP will be considered during the merit review process (see Part V, B.). See Part III Section 3.1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for NIFA attachment specifications. The requirements for preparation and inclusion of a DMP in your application is included on the following web page, Data Management Plan. Also included on the web page are FAQs and information about accessing examples of DMPs.

4. R&R Senior/Key Person Profile (Expanded)
Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V, 5 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. This section of the guide includes instructions about senior/key person profile requirements, and details about the biographical sketch and the current and pending support, including a link to a suggested template for the current and pending support.

5. R&R Personal Data – As noted in Part V, 6 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide, the submission of this information is voluntary and is not a precondition of award. Part V.6 also notes the importance and use of the information.

6. R&R Budget
Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part V, 7 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

The budget must support the outputs and outcomes described in the logic model and in the Approach section. Provide a narrative justification for each of the budget lines. Include travel to the Association of Natural Resources Extension Professionals (ANREP) Biennial Conference and/or other professional meeting(s) where you will present the project and its accomplishments.

7. Supplemental Information Form
Detailed information related to the questions on this form is available in Part VI, 1 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

a. **Field 2. Program to which you are applying.** Enter the program code name (i.e., enter "Renewable Resource" and the program code (i.e., enter "ME"). Note that accurate entry of the program code is very important for proper and timely processing of an application.
b. **Field 8. Conflict of Interest List**. See Part VI, 1.8 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for further instructions and a link to a suggested template.

8. Representations Regarding Felony Conviction and Tax Delinquent Status for Corporate Applicants

This is a required form for corporate applicants. See Part VI, 2 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide for a description of the term, "corporation," and detailed information related to the questions on this form.

C. Submission Dates and Times

We recommend that you conduct an administrative review of the application before submission of it via Grants.gov to ensure that it complies with all preparation instructions. An application checklist is included in Part VII of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide to assist with this review. Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide. Applications must be received by Grants.gov by **5 p.m. Eastern Time** on June 21, 2019. Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. If you have trouble submitting an application to Grants.gov, you should FIRST contact the Grants.gov Help Desk to resolve any problems. Keep a record of any such correspondence. See Part IV. A for Grants.gov contact information.

We send email correspondence to the AR regarding the status of submitted applications. We strongly encourage you to provide accurate email addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance. If the AR has not received correspondence from NIFA regarding a submitted application within 30 days of the established deadline, contact the Agency Contact identified in Part VII of the RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so** may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, you should cite this number on all future correspondence.

D. Funding Restrictions

RREA is an Extension-only program therefore research cannot be conducted with RREA-NFF funds. Pursuant to Section 1473 of the National Agriculture Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended, 7 USC 3319, indirect costs and tuition remission are not allowable costs under RREA-NFF projects, and no funds will be approved for this purpose. Further, costs that are a part of an institution's indirect cost pool (e.g., administrative or clerical salaries) may not be reclassified as direct costs for the purpose of making them allowable.

E. Other Submission Requirements

You should follow the submission requirements noted in Part IV, Section 1.9 in the document entitled "NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide." For information about the **status of a submitted application**, see Part III, Section 6 of the NIFA Grants.gov Application Guide.

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

We evaluate each application in a two-part process. First, we screen each application to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, a technical review panel will evaluate applications that meet the administrative requirements.

We select reviewers based upon their training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors:

- the level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities;
- the need to include experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields;
- the need to include other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs;
- the need to include experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and federal agencies, and private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations;
- the need to maintain a balanced composition with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and
- the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness of each application to producers and the general public.

After each peer review panel has completed its deliberations, the responsible program staff of RREA-NFF will recommend that your project be approved for support from currently available funds or be declined due to insufficient funds or unfavorable review. RREA-NFF reserves the right to negotiate with the PD/PI and/or with the submitting organization or institution regarding project revisions (e.g., reductions in the scope of work, funding level, period, or method of support) prior to recommending any project for funding. We will send copies of reviews, ***not*** including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments to the PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Evaluation Criteria

A reviewer's written evaluation entails two levels of assessment. First, the reviewer summarizes how well the application addressed each evaluation criterion. After the application has been assessed for strengths and weaknesses of each criterion, the reviewer then evaluates the overall likelihood that the project will have significant outcome and impact. These written reviews are used to begin panel discussions with other reviewers serving on the peer review panel. Through these discussions, peer review panelists come to consensus on the final rating and ranking of proposals. A complete description of NIFA's peer review process can be found at the NIFA website NIFA Peer Review Process Competitive Grant Applications.

We will use the evaluation criteria below to review applications submitted in response to this RFA. All criteria will be weighted equally.

1. Project Justification
   - The issue that the project will address is well-defined and described.
2. Project Merit
   - The proposed objectives, outputs, outcomes, and impacts are clearly described, adequate, and appropriate;
   - The project utilizes theory-based non-formal adult education principles;
   - The project approaches and procedures are original, clearly described, and feasible;
   - The project is innovative in: focus, methodology, program delivery, audience and products; and
   - The project outcomes and projected impacts are clearly stated, measurable, and achievable.
3. Project Relevance
   - The proposal meets all of the requirements in the Project Narrative;
   - Evidence that partners and stakeholders play an active role in setting project direction and involved throughout the course of the project;
   - Planning and implementing methods for evaluating success of project activities and documenting potential impact in alignment with measurable short and midterm outcomes; and
   - Demonstration of feasibility through preliminary and current relevant data.
4. Project Personnel, Adequacy of Facilities and Equipment, Project Timeline, and Evaluation Plan
   - Roles of key personnel are clearly described;
   - Project personnel have extensive and documented experience in developing, leading, managing and evaluating extension programs;
   - Detailed, logical, and achievable timeline of project activities from project initiation through project completion and submission of final report;
   - Clear evidence of staff and budget resources to plan and conduct the project evaluation; and
   - Evidence of institutional capacity, competence, and experience in the proposed area of work is provided.

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, we take extreme care to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. See NIFA Peer Review Process Competitive Grant Applications for further information about conflicts of interest and confidentiality as related to the peer review process.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted one-time, with updates on an as-needed basis. This requirement is part of the responsibility determined prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another NIFA program. We will provide you copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors that may exclude an applicant from receiving federal financial and nonfinancial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

E. Application Disposition

An application may be withdrawn at any time before a final funding decision is made regarding the application. Each application that is not selected for funding, including those that are withdrawn, will be retained by RREA-NFF for a period of three years.

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the NIFA awarding official shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the NIFA awarding official as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. The project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by NIFA under this RFA may be used only for the purpose for which they are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, regulations, terms and conditions of the award, applicable federal cost principles, USDA assistance regulations, and NIFA General Awards Administration Provisions at 7 CFR part 3430, subparts A through E.

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the information described in 2 CFR 200.210. See Terms and Conditions to view current NIFA award terms and conditions.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These may include, but are not limited to, the ones listed on the NIFA web page – http://nifa.usda.gov/federal-regulations.

NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide—a compendium of basic NIFA policies and procedures that apply to all NIFA awards, unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary—is available at http://nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide.

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

The output and reporting requirements are included in the award terms and conditions (see https://nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditionsfor information about NIFA award terms). If there are any program or award-specific award terms, they will be identified in the award.

Grantees are to use REEport, NIFA's electronic, web-based inventory system to submit an initial project initiation which documents expected products and outcomes of the project. Additionally, an annual progress report documenting realized project outcomes must be submitted to the electronic system. The web-based system facilitates an electronic workflow between grantees and NIFA for project accomplishments to be easily searchable and allows for public access to information on Federally-funded projects. The details of these reporting requirements, including those specific to the annual and final technical reports, are included in the award terms and conditions.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACT

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact:

Programmatic Contacts

Eric R. Norland
Title: National Program Leader, Forest Resource Management: Division of Environmental Systems
Location: 3190 Waterfront Centre
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PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, awardees may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Budget or Project Plans

In accordance with 2 CFR 200.308, awardees must request prior approval from NIFA for the following program or budget-related reasons:

(i) Change in the scope or the objective of the project or program (even if there is no associated budget revision requiring prior written approval).

(ii) Change in a key person specified in the application or the federal award.

(iii) The disengagement from the project for more than three months, or a 25 percent reduction in time devoted to the project, by the approved project director or principal investigator.

(iv) The inclusion, unless waived by the federal awarding agency, of costs that require prior approval in accordance with 2 CFR 200 Subpart E—Cost Principles of this part or 45 CFR Part 75 Appendix IX, "Principles for Determining Costs Applicable to Research and Development under Awards and Contracts with Hospitals," or 48 CFR Part 31, "Contract Cost Principles and Procedures," as applicable.

(v) The transfer of funds budgeted for participant support costs as defined in §200.75 Participant support costs to other categories of expense.

(vi) Unless described in the application and funded in the approved federal awards, the sub-awarding, transferring or contracting out of any work under a federal award, including fixed amount sub-awards as described in §200.332 Fixed amount sub-awards. This provision does not apply to the acquisition of supplies, material, equipment, or general support services.

(vii) Changes in the approved cost-sharing or matching provided by the non-federal entity.

(viii) The need arises for additional federal funds to complete the project.

The awardee will be subject to the terms and conditions identified in the award. See https://nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions for information about NIFA award terms.

B. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of NIFA transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. We will retain for three years a copy of an application that does not result in an

award. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

C. Regulatory Information

This program is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires intergovernmental consultation with state and local officials.

Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

D. Definitions

Refer to 7 CFR 3430, Competitive and Noncompetitive Non-formula Financial Assistance Programs--General Award Administrative Provisions, for applicable definitions for this NIFA grant program

For the purpose of this program, the following additional definition is applicable:

RANGELAND means land supporting indigenous vegetation that either is grazed or that has the potential to be grazed, and is managed as a natural ecosystem. Rangeland includes grasslands, savannas, graspable forestlands, shrub lands, pasturelands, many deserts, tundra, alpine communities, marshland and meadows.