

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION
Forestry Division



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

PHONE: (406) 542-4300
FAX: (406) 542-4217

2705 SPURGIN ROAD
MISSOULA, MONTANA 59804

April 4, 2016

Notification of Funding Availability

Dear Forest Supervisors:

Governor Bullock's Forests in Focus Initiative is a multi-dimensional strategy to accelerate the pace, scale and quality of forest restoration in the state of Montana. A key focus of this initiative is working in partnership with the United States Forest Service to support projects that meet the broader goals of Forests in Focus, including: improving forest health, reducing wildfire risk, and working within a collaborative framework to best manage our forests for a variety of objectives.

Under authority granted by the state Legislature, Governor Bullock has made up to one million dollars available from the state fire suppression account to engage directly in Forest Service projects. Priority criteria to receive state funds, in no particular order, include projects that:

- Are in the designated Priority Landscapes under the 2014 Farm Bill;
- Are developed collaboratively with interested stakeholders;
- Provide restoration of vegetation (including fuels reduction), watersheds and wildlife habitat;
- Produce forest products;
- Enhance recreational opportunities, and
- Complement management activities on private, state, county, city or tribal lands, and that illustrate cross boundary partnerships and investments

Proposals must clearly demonstrate how state funds will increase project outcomes and/or accelerate project timelines.

Please use the attached Call for Proposals when submitting projects for funding. Proposals should be submitted to Maureen Bookwalter by **May 4th, 2016**. The DNRC will select projects based on how closely they meet the above criteria. Should funding remain after initial project selection or additional funding become available, additional project proposals may be considered at that time. Upon review and acceptance of projects, the DNRC will proceed with processing grant award documents. Funds will become available once the grant document is signed. If you have specific questions about this program, process, or activities to be accomplished, please contact Maureen Bookwalter, at (406) 214-2145, or email Mbookwalter@mt.gov.

We look forward to working with the USFS to advance forest restoration in Montana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maureen Bookwalter", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Maureen Bookwalter

USFS-DNRC Liaison

Forests in Focus USFS Grant -- Call for Proposals
Due May 4th, 2016

Please provide proposals for USFS projects in the State of Montana that best meet the intent of this Initiative. Project proposals should be no more than 5 pages and include the following information.

1. **Project Name and Location.** Forest, District and County.
Include primary Forest contact, phone number and email address.

2. **Project Outcomes.** Describe the anticipated results of the project. Please review the priority criteria in the Notification for Funding Availability Letter and explain how the project meets some or all of those criteria. Each proposal must clearly demonstrate how state funds will increase project outcomes and/or accelerate project timelines.

3. **Assistance Needed.** Amount of state funding requested and how those funds will be used. Allowable activities include:
 - Planning/data collection (e.g., wildlife, soil, archeology and botany surveys);
 - Pre-sale work (e.g., timber sale preparation and layout, carrying out Best Management Practices (BMP) on forest roads);
 - Implementation (e.g., thinning, prescribed burning); and/ or
 - Increasing citizen engagement and collaborative effectiveness.

Be clear about how state funds will increase the capacity to accomplish the work you are requesting funds for. Examples include:

- Existing USFS Contract
 - New USFS Contract
 - IDIQ contract
 - Existing USFS/District Staff
 - Other
4. **Project Timeframe.** Describe where the project is in the NEPA process, when the anticipated decision date is, and approximately when the state funds will be expended.

 5. **Project Map.** Submit a project map (with associated GIS files) and include a website link to project NEPA documents, if available.

If any of the above information is not included upon submission, the proposals will be sent back and may not be considered in this round of state funding.

