

Public Lands Initiative Grants Request for Proposals 2020

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and the Quinney College of Natural Resources at Utah State University, in partnership with the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, are pleased to announce a request for proposals (RFP) in Public Lands Research and Management. This RFP is funded through a legislative appropriation to the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station titled the USU Public Lands Initiative. Proposals must focus on at least one of the following topics: management of public lands; evaluation of restoration projects; recreation planning; fire ecology and management; conservation of species; animal movement studies; economics of public land use; or creative tools to integrate the management of private, state and federal lands in Utah. All successful projects must have a clear application for their outcomes such as: new assessment tools for land managers, programs to assess economic value of management plans, recreation management plans for specific locations, or programs to assess the effectiveness of land restoration efforts. Successful projects should demonstrate a high probability of significant impact within a reasonably short period of time.

Proposals will be limited to five single-spaced pages. A budget and budget justification are required but are not included in this five-page limit. Proposals must provide a clear project justification, scope of work, description of anticipated impact (including an estimated time frame for when this impact will be realized), and description of how project outcomes will enhance public lands management and/or policy. There is an expectation for a 1:1 match from external partners such as a city/town, Conservation District, State or Federal agency, private industry, non-governmental organization, etc. The match can be a combination of in-kind and/or cash. The required budget template is posted at <https://uaes.usu.edu/internal/project-support>. A separate Budget Justification must be submitted with the budget template and must specifically justify each of the budget items as well as describe the match. The maximum request must not exceed \$60,000 and the timeline for completion may not exceed 24 months. Only one proposal from a given principle investigator will be considered.

Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on **Monday, March 16, 2020**, and must be submitted electronically at <https://uaes.usu.edu/internal/project-support>. Please submit a single PDF document assembled in the following order: (1) Cover Page, (2) Project Narrative (limited to five pages), (3) References, (4) Budget Form, and (5) Budget Justification. Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit and impact on public lands management by a Public Lands Advisory Board who will rank the proposals. Funding decisions will be made to the Deans of the Colleges of Agriculture and Applied Sciences and Quinney Natural Resources based on scientific merit and impact on public lands management. The Deans reserve the right to fund or not fund projects recommended for funding as well as the right to fund projects at full or partial levels depending on the appropriateness of the budget and budget justification.

If you have questions about the Public Lands Initiative Grant Program or how to submit a Grant proposal, please contact Chris Davies, Associate Director of UAES (E-mail: chris.davies@usu.edu; phone: 435-797-1900).