

Request for Proposals, McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Funding

The University of Washington, School of Forest Resources invites proposals from its faculty to address the goals of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act (M/S). The McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act (M/S) grant is used to assist all states in carrying out a program of state forestry research at state forestry schools and colleges and developing a trained pool of forest scientists capable of conducting needed forestry research, which should include: (1) ecological restoration; (2) catastrophe management; (3) valuing and trading ecological services; (4) energy conservation, biomass energy and bio-based materials development; (5) forest fragmentation; (6) carbon sequestration and climate change; and (7) ways of fostering healthy forests and a globally competitive forest resources sector. Additionally, M/S funds should be allocated to the following high priority issues: (1) science of integration (ecosystem or landscape approaches including interdisciplinary multi-state projects); (2) forest ecosystem services; (3) human attitudes and behaviors; (4) conflict, uncertainty, and decision-making; (5) technological advancements (biotechnology, nanotechnology and geospatial technology), productivity, and forest applications; and (6) urban ecosystems.

We have a total of \$130,000 to award, and we wish to spread that among as many projects as possible. We anticipate funding a maximum budget of \$35,000 per proposal, but look forward to evaluating smaller proposals as well. Research can be initiated after federal approval (likely within 1 month of the award), but must be completed by September 30, 2011.

The New Directions in Research Committee will evaluate projects based on the following three overarching criteria (proposals will be scored from 0-10 on each criteria):

- 1. The scientific merit of the proposed research is the fundamental criterion upon which proposals will be evaluated. Because the SFR faculty conduct a variety of scientific endeavors, the proposal should clearly articulate what you consider to be the scientific merit, and this should be evident within the first section of the proposal.*
- 2. Scientifically meritorious proposals must also clearly link to the goals of the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Research Act and especially the high priority areas indicated in the 2007 Strategic Plan (pdf attached).*
- 3. The broader impacts of the proposed research. The spirit of the M-S act is to enhance the management of forest resources through scientific investigation and student training. Therefore, ability of the proposal to communicate relevant findings to resource managers or other users will be an important evaluation criterion. This should go beyond publications and web sites.*

In addition to these core criteria, the committee will prioritize proposals that accomplish the following secondary goals. The total score of proposals from the core criteria will be augmented by 0-5 points by each of the following criteria.

- 1. Proposals that support and mentor graduate students and post doctoral researchers will receive priority.*
- 2. Proposals that mentor and support Assistant Professors in building a successful tenure package will receive priority.*
- 3. Proposals that forge new collaborations among SFR faculty and among SFR faculty and the wider community of scholars and practitioners will receive priority.*

4. Proposals that provide bridge support for research faculty with a proven history of funding will be prioritized.

5. Proposals that leverage matching funds will be prioritized

Finally, researchers that were successful in obtaining M-S funds in the 2008 and 2009 competition will be given low priority in the 2010 competition. From the score obtained by the proposal's alignment with the core and secondary criteria (a maximum of 55 points could be earned), the committee will reduce the score by 15 points for proposals including investigators that were funded by M-S grants in the previous two years.

Please submit your proposal electronically by 5pm, 21 May to Lois Fink (fink@uw.edu). The proposal should be prepared according to the "Essentials" listed below and must be completed using the template provided in this RFP (see below).

A COVER LETTER (1 page max) that stipulates (1) how this funding will contribute to your career goals (noting especially how funding may enhance your tenure case, open new funding streams, or increase your ability to compete for future funds) and (2) if you received M-S research funds (other than startup funds) in the last open college competition must be included with your proposal.

ESSENTIALS OF A M-S PROJECT PROPOSAL

Title. A brief description of the subject of the research. The title, as clearly as possible, should reflect the objectives and scope of the project.

I. Scientific Merit and Broader Impacts

Justification. Present (1) the importance of the problem to agriculture, forestry and rural life of the State or region; (2) reasons for doing the work (such as the needs the project will fill) and doing it at this time; and (3) ways in which public welfare or scientific knowledge will be advanced. In addition, align the project to any of the emerging knowledge areas identified in the 2007 McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan (see attached). Include how you are addressing stakeholders' input. Detail the broader impacts of your research, which according to the National Science Foundation includes: How well does the activity advance discovery and understanding while promoting teaching, training, and learning? How well does the proposed activity broaden the participation of underrepresented groups (e.g., gender, ethnicity, disability, geographic, etc.)? To what extent will it enhance the infrastructure for research and education, such as facilities, instrumentation, networks, and partnerships? Will the results be disseminated broadly to enhance scientific and technological understanding? What may be the benefits of the proposed activity to society?

Previous Work and Present Outlook. A brief summary of the previous research (citing important publications); status of current research; and the additional knowledge needed which the project is expected to provide. This is where you should indicate the scientific merit of the project and clearly show how your research advances your field of study. The following questions posed by the National Science Foundation may help frame this section. How important is the proposed activity to advancing knowledge and understanding within its own field or across different fields? How well qualified is the proposer (individual or team) to conduct the project? To what extent does the proposed activity suggest and explore creative, original, or potentially transformative concepts?

Objectives and Hypotheses. A clear, complete, and logically arranged statement of the specific results to be achieved by the project. Where appropriate, specific scientific hypotheses to be tested should be articulated. Reviewers will consider how well conceived and organized is the proposed activity.

II. Procedure. A statement of the essential working plans and methods to be used in attaining each of the stated objectives. Procedures should correspond to the objectives and follow the same order. Phases of the work to be undertaken currently should be designated. Location of the work and the facilities and equipment needed should be indicated.

III. Duration and Timetable. An estimate of the maximum time likely to be required to complete the project and publish results. For the timetable, list major activities and/or objectives and their corresponding time of completion. For example: Objective 1 will be realized in 7 months time (Jan. 1 - July 31, 2011).

IV. Financial Support. Estimated annual allotments (by funds) to (1) salaries, and (2) maintenance, based on analysis of requirements for labor, equipment, supplies, travel, and other operating expenses.

V. Personnel. The leader(s) and other technical workers assigned must include a brief resume' (no more than a page). Past accomplishments, and how these relate to the current research should be indicated. If there is an advisory, coordinating, or directing committee for the project, the official title of the committee should be listed.

VI. Cooperation/Collaboration and Communication of Results. A statement listing the U.S. Department of Agriculture or other station, institutions, or agencies expected to cooperate formally or informally on the project. All proposals should include in this section the broader impacts of the proposed research and how it will be communicated effectively to resource managers and other users.

VII. Literature Cited.

PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

**Proposals must use the following template to be considered
You must use 12 Pt, Times New Roman Font, 3-5 pages excluding Section V and VII**

Title:

Principal Investigator and Co-Investigators:

Overview (1 paragraph summary)

<Narrative>

I. Scientific Merit

1. Project Justification & Alignment with M/S Priorities

<Narrative>

2. Previous Work and Present Outlook

<Narrative>

3. Project Objectives and Hypotheses

<Narrative>

II. Procedure (clearly linked to objectives)

1. Study Site(s)

<Narrative>

2. Sampling Design

<Narrative>

3. Measurements

<Narrative>

4. Data Analysis

<Narrative>

5. Materials

<Narrative>

III. Project Duration and Timeline

This project will last approximately x years, assuming a start date in Month of Year, with completion in Month of Year.

Project Milestone	Description	Delivery Date

IV. Financial Support

<Narrative Justifying Budget>

Budget Item	Amount Requested	Amount Provided by Other Sources	Other Sources
Personnel			
Travel (research)			
Travel (scientific meeting)			
Equipment			
Supplies			
Graduate Student Tuition			

V. CV of Investigators (1 page per person)

<Narrative>

VI. Collaboration, Broader Impacts and Communication

<Narrative>

VII. Literature Cited

<Narrative>