



UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

School of Forest Resources

November 29, 2010

Subject: Research Competition – Proposal Evaluation

To: Bev Anderson, Frank Greulich, John Marzluff (Chair), Sally Morgan, Cecilia Paul, Steve West

From: Thomas M. Hinckley, Interim Director



As a result of a memo sent to the faculty and staff on October 27th, we have received nine proposals addressing the research part of the competition established with the sending of that memo (see next page for specific content of the memo). I am requesting your service in the evaluation of these proposals and would appreciate by January 3, 2011 (or sooner, if possible), a ranking of these proposals. In all likelihood, no more than two and possibly only one will be supported. We have copies of each of these proposals and these will be sent to you.

Please consider the quality of the proposal as witnessed by innovative ideas (i.e., risk is ok), the opportunity to explore interdisciplinary aspects of the proposed topic, the likelihood of substantial progress and the likelihood that successful outcomes by the research team will lead to subsequent proposals. Specifically you should remember that the goal of this competition is to position SFR and its units for the longer term in the new budgetary environment. In your evaluation, please provide me with a statement regarding how the group thinks a recommended project will do this.

Bev Anderson and Sally Morgan will make sure that the final budget considered is correct. Ms. Deborah Livingstone will provide administrative assistance in scheduling meetings.

Thank you.



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Beverly Anderson and I have worked together to find funding and to define how that funding might be used to support several competitive initiatives within the School. All of these competitions should be viewed as mechanisms to improve our research, teaching and engagement profile as we move ahead. Three categories have been identified and the specific goals, objectives, requirements, and deadlines for each of these categories will be dealt with individually. The three categories are:

1. Research
2. Equipment
3. Student support

Research Competition (\$140,000)

We are making \$140,000 available from McIntire-Stennis funds to a single, successful research team. The proposal should (1) meet one or more of the national needs or priorities outlined by the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA),¹ (2) be highly innovative, (3) include the engagement of undergraduate and graduate students, (4) consider defining and then addressing one of several potential compelling future research problems or thrusts, and (5) consider an interdisciplinary focus. For this competition we are limiting the team to faculty and staff in SFR. Using the \$140,000 to leverage additional funds will be looked upon favorably.

Some compelling future research thrusts that come to mind, only limited by my imagination and not yours, include (1) in northwest ecosystems, the use of braided indigenous and western knowledge to address stewardship and management issues, (2) climate change and water resources from forest watersheds, (3) bioenergy choices in diverse eco- and human systems, (4) urban agriculture, (5) diverse approaches to incentivizing working land retention, and (6) interfacing multiple disciplines with NEON.

One might think of this award as a Tools for Transformation grant that provides the foundation for a subsequent larger DoD, DoE, EPA, NASA, NSF or USDA research proposal. For example, NSF has multiple programs that might gain your interest, such as but not limited to, programs listed under Biological Infrastructure, or Emerging Frontiers, or the Integrative Organismal Systems subsections of the Biological Sciences Directorate, or the Office of Multidisciplinary Activities, or Discovery Research K-12, or the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Program.

¹ National priorities 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.” [McIntire-Stennis Strategic Plan, 2007, 2010]

If a second year of support can be justified, frame your proposal in terms of two phases. We can assure full funding for the first phase (award date – as soon as the project is approved by the national office, to be fully spent no later than September 30, 2011), and our goal would be to provide between \$80,000 and \$140,000 for phase II. Its subsequent awarding would depend on continued McIntire-Stennis funding at our current level. Although we recognize the need for such information prior to critical dates for graduate student recruitment, we likely won't know our allocation for FY12 by that time. This is where leveraging funds would be useful. Proposal evaluation will initially be based upon the strength of the work proposed for Phase I.

Only one proposal will be funded, unless the short time frame poses a problem. In that case it's possible that 2 or 3 smaller projects (think at least 40K) will be funded over a multi-year period.

Proposals should be 6 or fewer pages (1.5 spacing, Times Roman 12, 6 inch wide text area). See attached "Essentials of a McIntire-Stennis Proposal" document for the outline (page 4); all items correspond to fields that are required for submission to the national office. Place references on a separate page; the budget and its justification (single space) should also occupy its own page. Each person involved should provide a **one-page CV. Due November 15, 5 pm.**