



## REQUEST FOR PARTICIPANTS

### Federal Lands Management Research and Extension Seed Grants Program

The Western Rural Development Center (WRDC) at Utah State University is pleased to issue this request for participation from Research and Extension professionals in the West on a new program seeking to address concerns related to Federal Lands Management in the region.

#### Problem

Vast amounts of land in the western United States is owned and managed by the Federal Government. In recent years, federal land management decisions have been prominent and divisive. What is needed is scientifically-sound and politically-neutral information on the consequences of various land management decisions, an understanding of the views of various population segments on these issues, and the capacity to present this information to policy makers and other interested individuals in an unbiased manner.

#### Objectives

This program will analyze data to improve understanding of the situation. Program outcomes may be presented as a webinar, or series of webinars; published in the WRDC's magazine Rural Connection; as a WRDC Western Policy Brief; as well as in scientific journals.

Potential questions to be explored include:

- What are the social, demographic, and economic implications of varying levels of federal land in different regions of the West?
- What are the local impacts of changes in land management objectives? For example, what are the economic impacts for local communities in areas designated as national monuments and parks?
- To what extent do residents of the West support different land management plans? Which land management plans do western residents support?

#### Strategies/Actions

A select team will be chosen from the submissions to participate in this program. They will be invited to meet in July 2018 at the Western Rural Development Center offices on the Utah State University campus in Logan, Utah, for an initial two-day planning meeting where participants will share what they are already doing related to land management, what they would do next, either individually or as part of this group, with seed grant monies, and a group plan of action will be developed. This plan of action will then be presented to members of the Western Rural Development Center's Board of Directors for review and approval. If the plan of action is approved, the Western Rural Development Center may provide funds, based on availability, to the program team to begin implementation of the plan of action. Additional funding sources will also be sought by the program team. NOTE: Those applicants selected to participate will need to fund their own travel to Utah for the initial planning meeting.

#### Submission Guidelines

The submission deadline is 11:59 PM (MT), Monday, May 7, 2018.

If you are interested in participating in this Western Rural Development Center program, please send the four documents as listed below to [don.albrecht@usu.edu](mailto:don.albrecht@usu.edu). Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

1. Your vita (name the file: YOUR LAST NAME-Vita. Example: ALBRECHT-VITA);

2. A description of your relevant expertise and research to date, not to exceed 500 words (name the file: YOUR LAST NAME-RelevantWork);
3. A statement, not to exceed 500 words, of how you could contribute to this Western Rural Development Center program (name the file: YOUR LAST NAME-StatementContribution);
4. Letter of support from your Extension or Agricultural Experiment Station Director (name the file: YOUR LAST NAME-LetterSupport).

### **Additional Information and/or Questions**

Please contact:

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