

Request for Proposal – Fiscal Year 2022

Background

Since 1968, the Public Lands Council (PLC) has actively represented the cattle and sheep producers who hold public lands grazing permits. The PLC advocates for these western ranchers who preserve our nation's natural resources while providing vital food and fiber to the nation and the world. Today, approximately 22,000 public land ranchers own nearly 120 million acres of private land and hold grazing permits on more than 250 million acres managed by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Nearly 40% of western cattle herd and about 50% of the nation's sheep herd spend time on public lands.

Public land ranching is essential to independent, family businesses that contribute to the economic and social sustainability of America's rural communities. Today, these ranchers are widely recognized for their work to protect the environment in which they live and operate – safeguarding open spaces, maintaining water sources and sustaining plant and wildlife populations.

The Public Lands Endowment Trust was established for the purpose of maintaining an endowment to protect, enhance and preserve public lands and the public lands livestock grazing industry. In particular, the Trust has as its objective the betterment of conditions for those engaged in the livestock grazing industry on public lands, the improvement of the products of such industry, and the development of a higher degree of efficiency in the operation of a livestock grazing business on public lands.

To that end, the Board of Directors for the PLC may provide funding to research and promotion proposals that seek to achieve the above listed objectives. Established research organizations and professionals, PLC state and national affiliates, and those engaged in research and promotion of public lands ranching may submit proposals for consideration for funding.

Overview

To support the longevity of public lands ranching, the Trust has identified general priority areas for successful projects:

- *Data on the public perception suburban/urban and non-western consumers and voters regarding public lands ranching and associated issues; and*
- *Data related to the role of grazing in western land management, the provision of ecosystem services, and contributions to the management of other natural resources; and*
- *Data related to the regional and local economic impacts of grazing and related industries to rural communities; and*
- *Promotion and marketing that communicates the importance of public lands ranching and furthers the policy of the Public Lands Council.*

FY2022 Research Areas

Further, the PLC Board of Directors have identified specific areas of research that successful applicants should seek to address.

1) Carbon storage

- *What impacts do invasive annual grasses like cheatgrass and ventenata have on the carbon storage potential of an ecosystem?*
- *How does livestock grazing (cattle or sheep) interact with carbon storage, organic matter volume, and other environmental/climactic metrics on public lands?*
- *What is the best way to measure carbon storage potential on federal public lands, including grazing allotments, that accounts for impacts from other multiple uses?*

2) Livestock and Wildlife

- *Are there demonstrable interactions between public lands grazing, and wildlife habitat and/or migration patterns?*

3) Multiple use

- *Material/producer tool creation for education, awareness, improvement of resolving multiple use conflicts on grazing allotments*

4) Wildfire

- *How can grazing be applied to decrease the risk of catastrophic wildfire, or decrease the intensity of wildfire?*
- *How does grazing affect carbon emissions/particulate matter dispersal during a catastrophic wildfire?*
- *How can livestock be used as a tool to improve post-fire land management outcomes?*

Proposal Submission

Applicants should complete the attached proposal application. Additional materials may be included as necessary.

The proposal form and any additional materials should be submitted via email to anelson@beef.org no later than **Friday, July 16, 2021**. Proposals will be evaluated by the Board of Directors during the Annual Meeting of the PLC in September.

Please note: A representative may be asked to present their proposal in person at this meeting in Seaside, Oregon, September 8-10, 2021.

Summary of Proposal

The proposal summary should include a brief description of the problem, objectives and methodologies or approaches. Summary should include how this proposal will meet the mission and purpose of the Trust and be consistent with the Trust guidelines.

Hypothesis, research questions, and associated body of work (literature reviews, etc.) should be included here. Please also note whether the proposed project requires any new analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Proposal Justification

Provide a description of the problem with relevant background information, previous

studies and relevance to the PLC program of work, public lands grazing permittees, and consequently the consumers of beef and lamb.

Proposal Objectives

Describe long-term goal(s) and supporting objectives of the proposed project in detail. Proposals for contributions to multi-state projects must possess objectives demonstrating multi-state impact.

Methodology

Outline the proposed methodology, including monitoring. This section should include a tentative schedule for conducting major steps of investigations, projects, implementation, and/or experiments. If necessary, outline foreseeable barriers to adherence to the schedule.

Publication and Education

Develop a plan for publishing the results of the project, research, and education. Indicate other information dissemination plans such as extension, social media, or other outreach/education activities. Include dissemination opportunities to relevant federal agencies.

Personnel and Collaborative Arrangements

Provide a list of partners and supplementary participants in the proposed project. Potential partners may include federal agency personnel, academic or research personnel outside the immediate impact of the project application, or any other station, institution, or individual expected to participate formally or informally in the proposed project. If the proposed project requires support personnel and/or collaboration with other research scientists, corporations, organizations, agencies, or entities, such collaboration must be justified and supported. Evidence in the form of a letter(s) should be provided in the project proposal for all collaborators and partners.

If supplementary participants or partners are listed, provide a management plan that outlines the participation of each of the listed partners and details the budget allocation, if any, to support the participation of each partner.

Resumes/CVs for each of the principal investigators and formal partners should be attached to this application.

Budget

Requested amount for proposal, including timeline of use of funds. If the current request will require an additional future request, note that here. **Please note that a grant of funding in the current year does not constitute any commitment of future funding.** Justification will be required for all funds requested. Please include a brief description of the need for expenses, i.e., supplies, travel, equipment, etc.

Should applicants intend to apply additional funding to the proposed project, please describe those here:

- Is this proposal subject to matched capital investment?

- Is the match financial, in-kind, a combination?
- If the project is subject to any kind of matched or additional investment, please submit letters of support.

Figures and Graphics

Please attach any figures or graphics.