

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Post Office Box 2890  
Washington, D.C. 20013

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JAN 28 2014

SUBJECT: ECS - Forest Service Partnership

TO: State Conservationists

File Code: 190-3

During the November 4, 2013 VTC, I announced a multi-year partnership with the Forest Service to improve the health and resiliency of forest ecosystems where public and private lands meet.

The effort focuses on three priorities:

- Reducing and mitigating wildfire threats to communities and landowners.
- Protecting water quality and supply for communities and industry.
- Improving habitat quality for at-risk or ecosystem surrogate species.

Throughout the month of November 2013, over 40 project proposals from Natural Resources Conservation Service State offices and National Forests were received. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell and I are extremely pleased with the level of interest, quality of submittals, and the number of existing local partnerships between the two agencies across the Nation. The proposals were evaluated against the priorities listed and their ability to demonstrate successful implementation this fiscal year. Particular emphasis was placed on areas that showed existing and vibrant partnerships with the Forest Service.

Projects in the following States were selected for fiscal year (FY) 2014:

Arkansas, California (2), Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, West Virginia, Wisconsin.

The FY 2015 solicitation process will take place over the summer months, and all States are encouraged to either establish or strengthen existing partnerships with the Forest Service throughout the remainder of FY 2014.

Thank you for your continued efforts to support voluntary, incentive-based conservation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Weller".

Jason A. Weller  
Chief

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Page 2

cc:

Leonard Jordan, Associate Chief for Conservation, Washington, D.C.

Richard Sims, Regional Conservationist, Northeast, and Acting Regional Conservationist,  
Southeast, Washington, D.C.

Astor Boozer, Regional Conservationist, West, Washington, D. C.

Karen Woodrich, Acting Regional Conservationist, Central, Washington, D.C.

Louis Aspey, Chief of Staff, Washington, D.C.

Anthony J. Kramer, Deputy Chief for Programs, Washington, D.C.

Wayne Honeycutt, Deputy Chief for Science and Technology, Washington, D.C.