

To: Matthew Betenson[mbetenso@blm.gov]; Claire Crow[ccrow@blm.gov]
Cc: Anderson-Gale, Lora[landersongale@blm.gov]
From: Ginn, Allison
Sent: 2017-02-23T14:38:13-05:00
Importance: Normal
Subject: Re: FY 2018 BPSS Project Submissions Deadlines
Received: 2017-02-23T14:38:31-05:00

Actually... it looks like Lora already covered this in a new BPSS proposal (#1403) (that I swear was not loaded on the sharepoint site when I looked this morning). I can touch base directly with her. Thanks!

Regards,

Allison Ginn
National Conservation Lands Program Lead
BLM Utah State Office
801-539-4053

On Thu, Feb 23, 2017 at 12:34 PM, Ginn, Allison <aginn@blm.gov> wrote:

Matt & Claire-

As a heads up, last year GSENM submitted a budget request for lwc inventory. We then rolled that up into a statewide request (that wasn't funded).

For FY18, UTSO is requesting lwc inventory funds from WO as part of the travel management planning/pending settlement commitments for Moab, Kanab, Richfield, Price and Vernal.

I want to make sure GSENM gets covered and think it's appropriate that you have a standalone project (that may compete more strongly, especially at a lower dollar figure). Could you assign an appropriate editor to update BPSS Request 16-6671? It looks like Lora and Gaye are authorized editors. They are welcome to contact me with questions.

Suggested edits:

Project Description

Funding is requested to assist in data collection and analysis to support lands with wilderness characteristics inventories on GSENM in advance of NEPA analysis for site-specific projects including landscape-level planning for habitat restoration and implementation level decisions for the Livestock Grazing Plan Amendment.

GSENM has internally identified data gaps in areas that may potentially contain wilderness characteristics and has also received new information for suggesting the presence of wilderness characteristics in portions of the Monument from the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (SUWA). The BLM must verify information regarding the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics and update inventory findings accordingly. Due to high public interest from multiple stakeholders, lands with wilderness characteristics issues are among the most highly controversial issues for BLM-Utah.

Nearly 500K acres of lands within GSENM are without current lands with wilderness characteristics inventories, including former State Institutional Trust Lands acquired since Monument designation. BLM-Utah strives to update lands with wilderness characteristics inventories prior to alternative development for any projects that can potentially adversely affect wilderness characteristics.

This proposal requests \$XX to fund the completion of analyzing and documenting the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics of approximately XX acres during FY18. Inventory of additional acres will be completed as time and funding allow. *(Note: As I anticipate completing Timber Mtn and Upper Kanab Creek in FY17, please project immediate needs for additional inventories in areas outside those two units*

- see attached map and also the maps in this folder:

GSENM - Lands with wilderness characteristics i...

*You can either estimate based on hiring 1-2
interns
or GS-5 seasonals
or estimating at 0.51/acre under an IDIQ)*

The preferred method for accomplishing lands with wilderness characteristics inventories is through the IDIQ contract currently in development at the WO. If contracting is not possible, the funds would cover labor provided through an assistance agreement. *(Note: This statement was just carried over from my statewide BPSS submission last year. If GSENM would prefer to hire seasonal labor, then you are welcome to alter*

accordingly

. Given the current projected costs for the IDIQ are at \$0.51/acre, an assistance agreement

a

t a projected cost of \$1100/week/intern may be cheaper.)

Project Benefits

Under Section 201 of FLPMA, the BLM has an obligation to inventory public land resources and other values, including wilderness characteristics, and to consider such information during land use and other project planning. The last comprehensive inventory of wilderness characteristics for GSENM was completed in 1999; however, the 1999 effort only included lands in H.R. 1500 and H. R. 1745. Recent litigation has highlighted the need to prepare a complete and defensible wilderness inventory for a project area during (or, more preferably, in advance of) NEPA analysis.

Project Feasibility

Each wilderness characteristics inventory unit would require at least two individuals to conduct on-the-ground inventories documenting apparent naturalness, the conditions of roads or routes in the inventory unit area, naturalness, and outstanding opportunities for solitude and/or primitive and unconfined recreation opportunities. Narrative descriptions must be supported by multiple geo-referenced photographs. Documentation of the presence or absence of wilderness characteristics is a BLM responsibility and additional labor will be provided by interdisciplinary specialists under basic ops and labor funding.

The preferential method for completing inventories is via the in-process IDIQ at the WO, if possible. However, if contracting is not an option, then the requested

\$

XX

K would fund approximately

XX

weeks of youth hire labor, plus additional overhead and per diem for field work.

One or t

wo interns would be hired under an assistance agreement as project coordinator

(

s

)

to conduct and document field visits, manage GPS/GIS data and to compile

information for BLM review. *(See note above)*

Project Support or Opposition

This project is supported by senior leadership in the Utah State Office. Additionally, external parties

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including

project proponents and

the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and local governments are

supportive of

establish

ing

a defensible dataset of lands with wilderness characteristics

in advance of NEPA analysis

.

Also, Allysia is coming up here next week for COTR training. Did you want me to send some of those posters to Escalante with her? Is anyone coming up from Kanab that has room for the others? There are 1500 copies total.

Regards,

Allison Ginn

National Conservation Lands Program Lead

BLM Utah State Office

801-539-4053

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Bastian, Randall (Randy)** <rgbastian@blm.gov>

Date: Thu, Feb 9, 2017 at 2:34 PM

Subject: FY 2018 BPSS Project Submissions Deadlines

To: Ahmed Mohsen <amohsen@blm.gov>, BLM UT Budget Technical Team

<blm_ut_budget_technical_team@blm.gov>, BLM UT SO Program Leads

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Cc: Karren Haslam <khaslam@blm.gov>, Carrie Darcey <cdarcey@blm.gov>, Anita Bilbao <abilbao@blm.gov>

Good Afternoon,

Project Proposals for FY 2018 are due to WO on **March 17, 2017**.

Link to the BPSS site

<https://doiportal.doi.net/blm/WO200/BPSS/SitePages/Home.aspx>

This email outlines the process and deadlines that Utah will follow to meet the March deadline.

Offices identify names of employees that will be "Rankers" **DD: Friday, February 17, 2017**

**Send an email to Randy Bastian & Tiffany Martinez with the names for your District.*

All project submissions by Districts, Divisions and GSENM due to the WO Budget Proposal Submission SharePoint **DD: Friday, February 24, 2017**

Offices update their Program Area Team Members **DD: Friday, February 24, 2017**

** Use the attached spreadsheet to update information for your district. Email your updated spreadsheet to Randy Bastian & Tiffany Martinez*

District Ranking Phase - Districts rank their projects for EACH THEME
DD: February 27 - March 3, 2017

Program Lead Ranking Phase - Program Leads/Program Area Teams will provide a statewide ranking for EACH THEME **DD: March 6-10, 2017.**

(Note: due to the ranking restrictions in the new system, Program Leads will receive a spreadsheet with all projects in their theme as well as a pdf document of all of the projects. Program Leads will submit their rankings via email to Tiffany Martinez & Randy Bastian.

USO Budget Staff will consolidate Program Lead ranking recommendations and distribute for Utah ELT review. **DD: March 13-14, 2016**

Utah ELT Briefing on Utah's FY 2017 Submission **DD: March 15-17, 2017**

Any questions, please contact me or Tiffany Martinez or Christine Jones.

Regards,

Randy

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Randall Bastian
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