

Public Lands Initiative Grants

Request for Proposals 2023 — Submission deadline, Monday, March 13

The College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences (CAAS) and the Quinney College of Natural Resources (QCNR) at Utah State University, in partnership with the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station (UAES), are pleased to announce a request for proposals in Public Lands Research and Management. This RFP is funded through the USU Public Lands Initiative, a legislative appropriation to the UAES. As with other projects supported through the Agricultural Experiment Station, this RFP is open to all USU faculty.

Proposals must focus on at least one of the following topics:

- Management of public lands
- Evaluation of restoration projects
- Recreation planning
- Fire ecology and management
- Animal and plant species conservation
- Animal movement
- Economics of public land use
- Creative tools to integrate the management of private, state and federal lands in Utah

Proposals that address aspects of issues identified in the Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air's 2021 and 2022 Reports to the Governor and Utah Legislature (<https://www.usu.edu/ilwa/files/report-2022.pdf>) are especially encouraged.

All successful projects must have a clear application for their outcomes, such as: new assessment tools for land managers, programs to assess the economic value of management plans, recreation management plans for specific locations, or programs to assess the effectiveness of land restoration efforts. Successful projects should demonstrate a high probability that applying findings can yield a significant impact within a reasonably short period of time.

The Proposal Narrative is limited to five single-spaced pages with a 12-point font and one-inch margins. The project narrative must include: a clear project justification; a comprehensive description of the scope of work; a description of anticipated impact(s), including an estimated time frame for when this impact can be realized; and a description of how project outcomes will enhance public lands management and/or policy. The proposal must also include:

1. A list of references, budget, budget justification and brief (2-4 page) biosketch for the Project Director. These are not included in the five-page limit.
2. A 1:1 match from an external partner(s) such as a city/town, conservation district, state or federal agency, private industry, non-governmental organization, etc. is required. The match can be a combination of in-kind and/or cash. If you need assistance identifying possible opportunities or connecting with the appropriate people in an agency, industry, or NGO, you are invited to contact Brian Steed, Executive Director of USU's Janet Quinney Lawson Institute for Land, Water, and Air, and a member of the faculty in the Department of Applied Economics (e-mail: brian.steed@usu.edu, phone: 435-797-7402).

He is also former Deputy Director of Programs and Policy at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, and former Director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources.

3. A separate Budget Justification must be submitted with the budget template and must specifically justify each of the budget items as well as describe the match.

The required cover page and budget template are posted at <https://caas.usu.edu/uaes/internal-resources/project-support>. The maximum request must not exceed \$60,000 and the timeline for completion may not exceed 24 months. Only one proposal from a given principal investigator will be considered.

Proposals are due by 5 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023, and must be submitted electronically at <https://caas.usu.edu/uaes/internal-resources/project-support>.

Please submit a single PDF document assembled in the following order: (1) Cover Page, (2) Project Narrative (limited to five pages), (3) References, (4) Budget Form, (5) Budget Justification, and (6) PD's Brief Biosketch (limited to 4 pages).

Proposals will be reviewed for scientific merit and potential impacts on public lands management, and ranked by the Public Lands Initiative Advisory Board. Funding decisions will be made to the Dean of the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences/Director Utah Agricultural Experiment Station and the Dean of the Quinney College of Natural Resources. The deans reserve the right to fund or not fund projects recommended by the Advisory Board as well as to fund projects at full or partial levels depending on the appropriateness of the budget and budget justification.

If you have questions about the Public Lands Initiative Grant Program or how to submit a grant proposal, please contact Chris Davies, Associate Director of UAES, chris.davies@usu.edu, 435-757-9111.