



File Code: 3000

Date: January 10, 2014

Dear Colleague:

The USDA Forest Service is seeking nominations and applications to fill two vacancies on the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) Technical Advisory Panel (Panel). The Secretary of Agriculture will appoint two representatives from conservation interests to serve on the Panel for two years beginning in May or June of 2014. The first Panel meeting the newly appointed Panel members would participate in would be in 2015.

The Panel is composed of 12-15 members, each representing a specific area of expertise or affiliation required under the Community Forest Restoration Act of 2000 (Title VI, Pub. L. No. 106-393, SEC. 606) as follows:

- A State Natural Resources official from the State of New Mexico;
- At least two representatives from Federal land management agencies;
- At least one tribal or pueblo representative;
- At least two independent scientists with experience in forest ecosystem restoration, and
- Equal representation from:
  - Conservation interests;
  - Local communities; and
  - Commodity interests.

The Panel uses a consensus based process to evaluate grant applications and provide recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on which ones best meet the program objectives. The Secretary of Agriculture makes the project funding decisions.

The CFRP provides cost share grants of up to \$360,000 to stakeholders for forest restoration projects in New Mexico that are designed through a collaborative process. Projects can be up to four years in length and can be located on or on any combination of Federal, Tribal, State, County or Municipal forest land. The Forest Service anticipates awarding approximately \$3.5 million in CFRP grants in 2014. Projects must address the following objectives:

- Wildfire threat reduction;
- Ecosystem restoration, including non-native species reduction;
- Reestablishment of historic fires regimes;
- Reforestation;
- Preservation of old and large trees;
- Small diameter tree utilization;
- Creation of forest-related local employment; and
- Stakeholder diversity.



Panel members serve two or three year terms without compensation, but may be reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses. Meetings are held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, once or twice a year for three to five days. The Panel usually meets in April for five days. A sub-committee meets every other year for three days. Prior to the meeting Panel members review, score and prepare to discuss 25 to 40 detailed applications. Panel members receive grant proposals to review approximately six weeks prior the Panel meeting. Previous Panel reports, including a list of Panel members, can be found on the CFRP website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp>.

Candidates who wish to be considered for membership on the Panel must submit the enclosed AD-755 application form and resume to the USDA Forest Service Southwestern Regional Forester. The AD-755 application form can also be found on the USDA website [http://www.usda.gov/documents/OCIO\\_AD\\_755\\_Master\\_2012.pdf](http://www.usda.gov/documents/OCIO_AD_755_Master_2012.pdf). Applicants must be United States citizens and at least 18 years of age. The AD-755, including the enclosed continuation sheets, and resume should address the following evaluation criteria:

- Knowledge of forest management issues in New Mexico;
- Experience working with government planning process;
- Knowledge and understanding of the various cultures and communities in New Mexico;
- Ability to actively participate in diverse team settings; and
- Demonstrated skill in working toward mutually beneficial solutions to complex issues.

Cover letters should be addressed to the Secretary of Agriculture. Additional information on Federal Advisory Committees can be found on the General Services Administration (GSA) website: <http://www.gsa.gov>.

All nomination materials should be mailed in a single, complete package and received by the Forest Service by 4:00 p.m., on **March 13, 2014**. All nominations for membership should be sent to: Walter Dunn, CFRP Panel Applications, USDA Forest Service, 333 Broadway Blvd., SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

The Forest Service has special interest in assuring that women, minority groups, and the physically disabled are adequately represented on these advisory committees. We encourage and welcome nominations for qualified female, minority, or disabled candidates.

For more information about the CFRP and the Panel contact Walter Dunn, Designated Federal Official (DFO), USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region, Tel: (505) 842-3425, Email: [wdunn@fs.fed.us](mailto:wdunn@fs.fed.us), or visit the CFRP website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/r3/cfrp>.

Sincerely,

*/s/Gilbert Zepeda (for)*  
CALVIN N. JOYNER  
Regional Forester

Enclosures