

Welcome

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USDA Forest Service Citizen Science Competitive Funding Program 2020 Request for Proposals





Michelle Tamez

Agency Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Coordinator
USDA Forest Service – Washington Office
Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff

GROWING NEEDS, LESS CAPACITY



FOREST SERVICE MANDATE

- Foster resilient, adaptive ecosystems
- Deliver benefits to the public
- Connect people to the outdoors
- Advance knowledge
- Exchange natural resource expertise

CAPACITY

- This requires inventory, monitoring and research data and information.
- Budget and staff time are increasingly limited

Forest Service personnel and members of the Boise Forest Coalition visit a site on the Boise National Forest in Idaho. 2018 Cohort.

Citizen science can help us meet
multiple objectives



2017 CROWDSOURCING & CITIZEN SCIENCE ACT

// Granting Federal science agencies the direct, explicit authority to use crowdsourcing and citizen science will encourage its appropriate use...and facilitate broader public participation in the innovation process... //

INVEST IN COLLABORATIVE SCIENCE

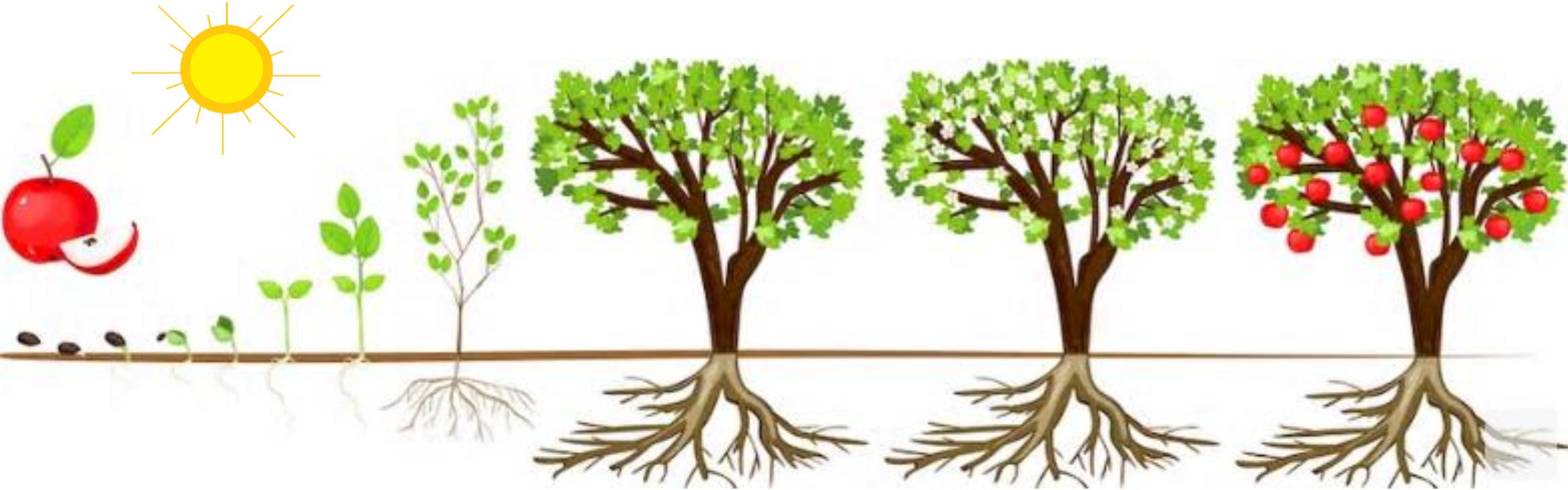
GOALS OF THE CITSCI FUND:

- Expand and strengthen the practice of citizen science in agency programs.
- Advance science and resource management through sound project design.
- Stimulate partnerships that address mutually beneficial outcomes, expand capacity, and leverage expertise and resources.
- Provide opportunities for meaningful participation by the public in agency activities.
- Offer opportunities for peer-to-peer learning for agency and partners.



Volunteers in Colorado with 2018 Cohort project, "Engaging citizen scientists in field research on American pika, an indicator species for alpine ecosystem integrity".

PROJECT INCUBATOR



Phase 1
Ideation and Design

→ Phase 2
Implementation

→ Phase 3
Ongoing Implementation and Knowledge Transfer

CITSCI FUND 2019

WE RECEIVED **56** PROPOSALS



2019 AWARDEES – PHASE 1



Air Quality Bio-Monitoring Using Lichens on the Tahoe National Forest

*Tahoe NF
California*



Building Southeast River Cane Monitoring Initiative for Cultural & Ecosystem Services

*Southern Research Station
Asheville, North Carolina*



Colorado Bat Watch: Monitoring Bats on Colorado's National Forests

*Routt and Pike NFs
Colorado*



Leveraging citizen science to map lamprey distributions in Oregon using eDNA methods

*Pacific NW Research Station
Coos River watershed,
downstream of the Siuslaw
National Forest, Oregon*

2019 AWARDEES – PHASE 2



**Developing Citizen
Volunteer Water
Quality Monitoring
Program in Alabama's
National Forests**

*Bankhead, Talladega,
Tuskegee, & Conecuh NFs
Alabama*



**Implementing a Citizen
Science Beaver
Assessment Program &
Protocol for Lolo
National Forest**

*Lolo NF
Montana*



**Stream Tracker:
Monitoring Streamflow
Intermittence Through
Citizen Science**

*Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs
Colorado*



**Working with citizen
scientists to improve
our understanding of
the impacts of roads &
traffic on wildlife**

*Caribou-Targhee NF
Idaho*

2019 AWARDEES – PHASE 3



**Community-based
monitoring of
western migratory
bird populations for
the Boise National
Forest**

*Boise NF
Idaho*



**Monitoring
American pika
response to climate
change in Colorado**

*White River NF
Colorado
2018 Cohort*



**Mountain Birdwatch:
monitoring the
distribution &
abundance of
montane birds in
northern New
England and New York**

*White Mountain NF
New Hampshire*



**Survey of Rural
Appalachian
Cemetery
Landscapes in West
Virginia's
Monongahela
National Forest**

*Monongahela National
Forest, West Virginia*



**Youth Forest
Monitoring Program**

*Helena-Lewis and Clark
NF
Montana*

CHANGES FROM 2019

2020 APPLICATION

- Updated goals to better reflect the program.
- Updated Application and Review Criteria to better meet program goals.
- Updated Phase descriptions to better meet the intentions of the Incubator.
- Increase in funding amounts for Phases 2 (from \$25k to \$30k) and 3 (from \$10k to \$20k).
- Base funding remains at \$200,000.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **Open to all Forest Service & partners**
- **Each project must have a USFS Partner Lead and a Partner Project Lead with a**
- **partnership agreement ready to be put into place upon receipt of award**
- **Have a genuine scientific and/or management outcome**
- **Meet a Forest Service information need**
- **Demonstrate meaningful volunteer engagement/collaboration**
- **Can be on any subject area (biological, social, cultural, infrastructure, etc.)**
- **Duration of one year or longer, involving volunteers multiple times over the course of the project (for funding Phases 2 and 3)**

PHASE DESCRIPTIONS

Phase	Funding Limit	Duration	Description
– 1 – Ideation and Design	Up to \$10,000	1.5 years funding – Dollars must be spent and final report completed by October 15, 2021. Eligible to apply for Phase 2 in 2021.	Initial idea or brainstorming between the Forest Service and a partner(s). An information need has been identified but may not be finalized, project design needs to be developed, and preliminary testing of protocols will occur during this phase. Volunteers have not been on the ground at the start of the project.
– 2 – Implementation	Up to \$30,000	2.5 years funding – Dollars must be spent and final report completed by October 15, 2022. Eligible to apply for Phase 3 in 2022.	If the project is a Phase 1 recipient, the Project Plan is complete. If the project has not received CitSci Funds in the past, all the information is available to complete a Project Plan . Implementation (active participation by citizen scientists) has not yet begun or citizen scientists have participated in field testing and pilots. In this Phase, testing and refining of the project design occurs. Citizen scientists participate in the project multiple times throughout this timeframe. OR Project is part of an established program but is adding a new component that requires testing such as a new research or monitoring question and methodology or expansion to new locations. Implementation on the new component (active participation by citizen scientists) has not yet begun or citizen scientists have participated in field testing and pilots. In this Phase, testing and refining of the project design occurs. Citizen scientists participate in the project multiple times throughout this timeframe.
– 3 – Ongoing Implementation and Knowledge Transfer	Up to \$20,000	1.5 years funding – Dollars must be spent and final report completed by October 15, 2021. Not eligible to apply for future funding.	For projects that have had active citizen scientists on the ground for more than one year and that have demonstrated results or shown success in meeting their objectives. These are projects that plan to continue into the future (demonstrate a funding sustainability model and a plan to continue after this year of funding). OR Phase 2 CitSci Fund awardees. Eligibility for the 2018 Cohort begins in the 2020 funding year.

IMPLEMENTATION

Phase 1: Develop, test, and refine project design concluding with a Project Plan.

Phase 2: Implement project with volunteers on the ground for multiple field seasons, continue to refine project design and Project Plan.

Phase 3: Continue to implement project, mentor and develop a How-To Guide for other FS units and partners.

ALL PROJECTS:

- Both project leads participate in quarterly calls with their Learning Cohort.
- Share lessons learned, best practices, protocols and other useful information with the national Community of Practice, and write blogs from the partner, volunteer, and Forest Service perspectives.
- Participate in an evaluation of their projects including measures on volunteer perceptions and attitudes, partnership outcomes, and how citizen science is being used for land management.

REPORTS

- **All Phases: Project Plans. Phase 3: How-to Guide.**
- **Report accomplishments into the appropriate USFS reporting database annually.**
- **Final accomplishments report.**
- **Provide information for national report to Congress.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Action	Target Date
Request for Proposals Open	October 3, 2019
Proposals Due	December 3, 2019 at 11:59 pm EST
Interviews with Finalists	January 27 – February 7, 2020
Project Selections Announced	February 18, 2020
Partnership Agreements in Place and Funds Dispersed	March 1 – May 1, 2020
Accomplishment Reporting in Corporate Databases	All Phases: October 10, 2020 Phases 2 and 3: Oct. 10, 2021 and 2022
Final Reports Due	Phase 1: Oct 15, 2021 Phases 2 and 3: October 15, 2022

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

On the CitSci Fund Program Webpage

- **Instructions**
- **Sample Application Form**
- **Evaluation Criteria**
- **Recorded webinar and slides**
- **Forest Service Citizen Science Project Planning Guide**

<https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/citizen-science/competitive-funding-program>

A RESOURCE FOR PROJECT LEADS

PROJECT PLANNING GUIDE

<https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/citizen-science/citizen-science-toolkit>

DETERMINE IF IT'S RIGHT FOR YOUR PROJECT

START WITH THE BASICS

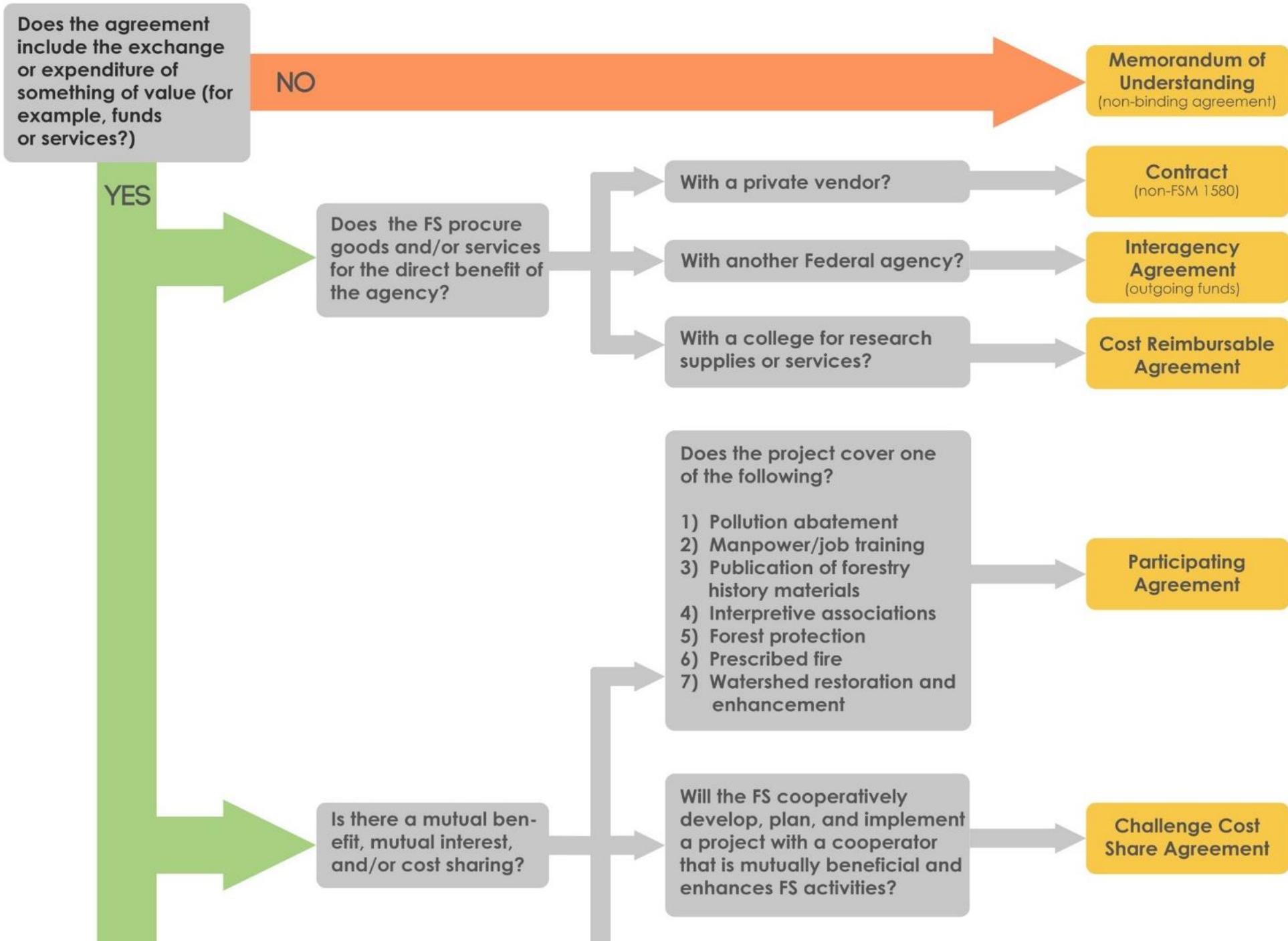
BUILD YOUR TEAM

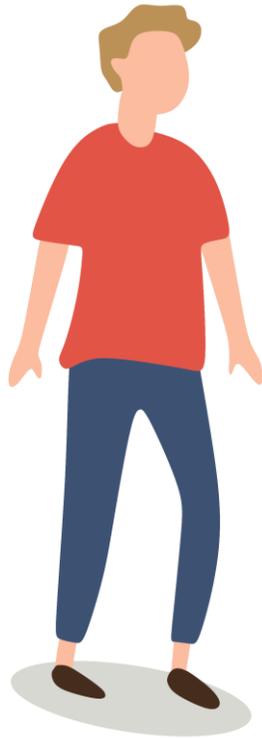
ESTABLISH PROJECT DESIGN

PREPARE FOR VOLUNTEERS

DEVELOP PROJECT EVALUATION

SHARE RESULTS





APPLICATION DEMO

IMPORTANT LINKS

- CitSci Program: <https://www.fs.fed.us/working-with-us/citizen-science/competitive-funding-program>
- Application: <https://usfs.smapply.io/>
- Join the mailing list: <http://www.eepurl.com/c5H8db>
- Email us: sm.fs.fscs@usda.gov

