Welcome

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*This meeting is being recorded

USDA Forest Service
Citizen Science Competitive Funding Program
2020 Request for Proposals
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
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...
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 ➔ Phase 2 ➔ Phase 3
Ideation and Design ➔ Implementation ➔ 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
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.
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)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>Funding Limit</th>
<th>Duration</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>– 1 – Ideation and Design</strong></td>
<td>Up to $10,000</td>
<td>1.5 years funding – Dollars must be spent and final report completed by October 15, 2021. Eligible to apply for Phase 2 in 2021.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>– 2 – Implementation</strong></td>
<td>Up to $30,000</td>
<td>2.5 years funding – Dollars must be spent and final report completed by October 15, 2022. Eligible to apply for Phase 3 in 2022.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td><strong>– 3 – Ongoing Implementation and Knowledge Transfer</strong></td>
<td>Up to $20,000</td>
<td>1.5 years funding – Dollars must be spent and final report completed by October 15, 2021. Not eligible to apply for future funding.</td>
<td>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.</td>
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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

- Report accomplishments into the appropriate USFS reporting database annually.
- Final accomplishments report.
- Provide information for national report to Congress.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Target Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Request for Proposals Open</td>
<td>October 3, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposals Due</td>
<td>December 3, 2019 at 11:59 pm EST</td>
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<td>Interviews with Finalists</td>
<td>January 27 – February 7, 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project Selections Announced</td>
<td>February 18, 2020</td>
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<td>Partnership Agreements in Place and Funds Dispersed</td>
<td>March 1 – May 1, 2020</td>
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| 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

- 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