

NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT FUND

2017 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

PURPOSE

The *Natural Resource Conservation Endowment Fund* was established by Jane P. Conrad and entrusted to Washington State University in 1982 to provide seed money for supporting research and projects related to, but not limited to, energy, small-scale agricultural concepts, community education, wildlife conservation and/or recovery, related psychological and sociological studies, domestic and international studies, and other projects related to conservation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, including biotic and abiotic ecological components. The proposed work should be oriented toward practical application of theory rather than strictly theory-oriented research to provide public uses or participants with a maximum opportunity to benefit.

ELIGIBILITY

Applications will be accepted from currently enrolled WSU graduate students in good standing with the Graduate School. An individual or a graduate student group may apply. Interdisciplinary and collaborative proposals in such areas as education, psychology, sociology, environmental engineering, sciences, agriculture and veterinary sciences are encouraged.

TERMS OF SUPPORT

There could be up to two awards given for \$1,200 each per year. The grant is subject to renewal up to a maximum of three years and may be requested by submitting a new proposal with a progress report each year. Equipment purchased with the fund money will become property of the WSU Foundation at the termination of the award and will be subject to sale with all proceeds going back into the endowment fund. Funds cannot be used for general education costs (tuition, school related fees, textbooks, computers, laptops, or software); non-essential data collection; or refreshments.

APPLICATION

Applications that are too long or incomplete will be returned without review. Use only 12-point font size

1. Face Page
 - a. Applicant's name
 - b. Department
 - c. Address [department zip or home]
 - d. Degree program
 - e. Telephone number and e-mail address
 - f. Project title
 - g. Faculty Advisor's name [tel. number and e-mail address]
 - h. Abstract [*lay language*] [no more than 300 words]
 - i. Proposed project timeline

2. Project Description (3 pages, single-spaced, 1-inch margins)
 - a. Introduction—Background; Problem Statement; Rationale
 - b. Specific Aims/Measurable Objectives
 - c. Methods—Include intended sample size and power analysis and/or justification from the literature used to determine the sample size
 - d. Evaluation and/or Assessment of your measurable objectives/specific aims
 - e. Relevance to discipline and/or practical application to the audience/population that will benefit from the study
 - f. Summary
3. Detailed Budget that accurately reflects how the \$1,200 will be spent **and** a strong budget justification (1 page)
4. Current & Pending Support for the proposed work—List source(s) of support and amount received and/or requested (1 page)
5. Biographical Sketch (1 page)
6. Letter of Sponsorship from faculty advisor (1 page)
7. Route via an eREX to submit, myresearch.wsu.edu. If you need help with this process contact the Research Administrator (RA) for your department listed here, <http://orso.or.wsu.edu/documents/DepartmentalContacts.pdf>

Proposals should be carefully developed and written to encourage positive consideration of the fund's purpose. *Write for a general audience.* Introduce any discipline-specific terms and/or acronyms used in the proposal. The letter of Sponsorship should address if applicant is qualified to do the proposed work, the scientific validity of the proposed project, and should state that the faculty advisor has reviewed and will support the applicant if the project is funded.

SUBMISSION AND DEADLINE

Submit electronic copy of the proposal via an eREX, include the following on the first tab:

- Proposal Type: NEW
- Funding Source: Internal
- If Internal/ In-House: NRCEF
- Award Period: Use dates from Important Date section.
- Sponsor Name: OFF OF RESEARCH—WSU
- Agency Contact: Maureen Bonnefin

Proposal Submission Deadline: **5 PM on April 14, 2017***

*Note, the eREX must be submitted 2 days prior to the deadline in order to meet WSU guidelines for submission.

REVIEW PROCESS

A panel of the Research and Arts Committee will review the proposals. Internal *ad hoc* reviewers with needed expertise may also be included in the process. The final selection will be based on the reviewers' recommendation. The review process will be completed by June 1, 2017 with the earliest start date being July 1, 2017.

REVIEW CRITERIA

The proposals will be reviewed by the panel according to the following criteria:

1. Originality
2. Significance
3. Feasibility and adequacy of the proposed design
4. Availability of adequate facilities
5. Appropriateness of the proposed project with the fund's purpose
6. Appropriateness of the budget
7. Readability for general audience
8. Letter of sponsorship

Is the project design concise and does it include a clear statement of goals and measurable objectives?

Are the proposed project objectives and goals well aligned with the purpose of the funds?

Does the proposal provide for logical or common sense "next steps" in addressing the targeted problem or need?

Are the overall strategy, methodology, and analyses well-reasoned and appropriate to accomplish the specific aims of the project?

Is the applicant well suited to the project?

Does the project address an important problem or a critical barrier to progress in the field?

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Summary of Progress reports and/or Final Reports shall be submitted to the Research and Arts Committee and forwarded to the donor by selected participants receiving funding. Summary of Progress reports will be due on the same deadline date as proposals requesting second year funding. Final Reports are due to Maureen Bonnefin on or before October 1 (or the next working day) of the year that the grant ends. Awardees are also required to do a presentation of their research results to the Research and Arts Committee.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have any questions concerning the guidelines, proposal or review process, please contact the program coordinator: Maureen Bonnefin at res.dev@wsu.edu. Office of Research Advancement and Partnerships, orap.or.wsu.edu.