

Conserving Nature's Stage in the Pacific Northwest

Climate Resilience Planning - Technical Assistance Grant Program

Request for Pre-Proposals Information and Instructions

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Nature Conservancy is announcing a Technical Assistance Grant program as part of our [Conserving Nature's Stage \(CNS\) Climate Resilience program](#). This program was created with support from the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation (DDCF). The Technical Assistance grants will help advance the practical application of climate resilience science to conservation. Funded projects are expected to focus on land protection planning and applied research that guide climate change resilient conservation efforts on the ground. This program encourages the use of an array of relevant climate science tools, with particular emphasis on the application of The Nature Conservancy's terrestrial resilience and connectivity science.

GRANT GEOGRAPHY AND COMPLETION TIMELINE

CNS Resilience Planning Technical Assistance grants are available to land trusts, other non-profit organizations, and research institutions doing work in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Projects should be significantly underway within six months of the grant award, and funds should be spent by December 31, 2017.

PRE-PROPOSAL APPLICATION, DEADLINE, and FULL PROPOSAL TIMELINE

Pre-Proposals are due by 5:00pm Pacific on November 14, 2016. Pre-proposals must include a project description plus an estimated financial summary. Follow the instructions and use the two-page form at this website: www.nature.org/resilienceNW_AssistGrants.

There is a total of \$100,000 available, with a 1:1 match requirement. There will likely be 3 - 6 grants awarded, ranging from \$15,000 - \$30,000. The CNS funds are available for staff time, contracts, meetings, and associated costs incurred after the grant is awarded. Matching funds for similar costs can come from any non-DDCF source, expended between January 1, 2015 and Dec 31, 2017.

We expect to identify a subset of pre-proposals for which we will request full proposals by early December, and will announce grant awards in early 2017.

PROJECT EVALUATION CRITERIA

We will evaluate pre-proposals according to the following criteria:

- The project's potential to advance the practical application of resilience and/or connectivity science, including the use or adaptation of CNS data or methods.
- The Project team's demonstrated success undertaking similar projects and sufficient GIS expertise to complete the project.
- Potential for the project to result in climate-informed land conservation on the ground as a result of plan development.
- Organizational commitment to ecological conservation and addressing climate change in conservation planning.
- Likelihood of project success within the proposed timeframe, and budget and capacity for the organization to fill any funding gaps.

Evaluations of full proposals will include preference for projects that:

- Involve multiple and diverse organizations that will leverage the grant investment in climate resilient conservation.
- Engage state agencies or other decision-makers who can affect conservation outcomes;
- Inform the expenditure of established or potential funding sources, such as mitigation funds and public or private grant programs.
- Use applied research to test new approaches to incorporating terrestrial resilience, connectivity or other relevant climate science, into land conservation.

PROJECT OUTCOMES AND PRODUCTS

Projects should produce one or more of the following outcomes or products: (1) a written conservation plan or plan revision that uses CNS climate resilience and/or connectivity science that identifies the location of conservation priorities; (2) communication materials that explain the relevance of climate data to land conservation and the findings from analyses or the planning process; and/or (3) a user-friendly guide for the application of climate science to conservation. TNC staff may be available to assist with using CNS datasets and integrating them into GIS analyses, but should not be the technical leads for projects.

Examples of project proposals for **planning** or **applied research** include the following:

1. Integrate resilience science datasets into a strategic conservation plan for a large-extent watershed or other geographically defined region that has the potential to direct public and private funding for land protection, including, for example, a state grant fund, a mitigation fund, or a land trust's capital campaign. *Outcomes should include: (1) a final conservation plan indicating the manner in which the climate science informed conservation priorities and (2) a summary including the methodology used, lessons learned, and likely impact on the expenditure of conservation funds.*
2. Work with a state agency on integrating terrestrial resilience science (possibly in conjunction with other science) for conservation targets, such as updating or implementing a State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP). *Outcomes may include: (1) the final conservation plan, (2) a summary of lessons from integrating the resilience science into a conservation planning project, or (3) a short case study report on how the information was used to implement a SWAP.*
3. Test new approaches to integrating other climate science approaches with the terrestrial resilience science. Applicants are encouraged to consider coordination with Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) or NW Climate Science Center (CSC) projects. *Applicants must present a clear case for how they will develop methods and what steps they will take to test their approach to prioritizing actions for land conservation. Outcomes may include a guidance document or management plan that presents a new approach to using climate science in conservation planning.*

ADDITIONAL GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Organizations receiving project funding will be required to submit a two- to four-page report by Dec 31, 2017, including an evaluation of the project value, summary of lessons learned, and context for building on lessons learned and project outcomes.

Contact **Ken Popper** or **Bob Unnasch** with any questions after reviewing the available information.