

**Announcement for Proposals, 2006-4
Joint Fire Science Program**

U.S. Department of the Interior

**Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Geological Survey**

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Opens October 14, 2005

Closes November 14, 2005

NOTE TO POTENTIAL PROPOSERS:

There are significant changes in requirements for the pre-proposals to be submitted in response to this AFP. Please read the AFP carefully.

This Announcement for pre-proposals includes 1 (one) Task Statement for studies that will build on or extend results of completed JSFP research, propose re-measurement of past study sites or experimental plots, or evaluate and test models or modeling systems.

Announcement for Proposals

by the
Joint Fire Science Program

A. Program Description

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) is a partnership of six federal wildland management and research agencies with a need to address problems associated with managing accumulating wildland fuels, fire regimes, and fire-impacted ecosystems on lands administered by the partner agencies. The partner agencies include the USDA Forest Service and five bureaus in the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey). For the purpose of this Announcement for Proposals (AFP), "wildland fuels" are considered to be living and dead plant material associated with forests, woodlands, shrublands, grasslands, wetlands, and riparian areas.

Wildland fuels have been accumulating during at least the past half-century due to wildland fire management policies, wildland management practices, and other factors. As demonstrated in recent years, the additional fuels contribute to intense fire behavior and increase the resistance of fires to control. Consequently, property and natural resources have been destroyed, costs of fire management have escalated, fire dependent ecosystems have deteriorated, and the risks to human life and property continue to escalate.

Congress, agency administrators, JFSP partners, and others have recognized that the accumulation of wildland fuels must be reduced in order to reduce the human threat from fire and maintain natural resource values. Congress directed the Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service to develop a Joint Fire Science Plan to provide science-based support to land management agencies as they address this need. The JFSP was established with the 1998 Appropriation for Interior and Related Agencies to help ensure that cooperating Federal land management agencies expedite scientifically sound, efficient, systematic, and effective solutions and monitoring programs that cross agency jurisdictions and fuel types.

The 1998 Joint Fire Science Plan addressed four issues (Principal Purposes) critical to the success of the fuels management and fire use programs. These included wildland fuels inventory and mapping, evaluation of fuels treatments, scheduling of fuels treatments, and monitoring and evaluation. Congress included additional direction in the 2001 Appropriation for Interior and Related Agencies. In addition to the four original Principal Purposes, the JFSP was directed to focus attention on issues such as protocols for evaluating post fire stabilization and rehabilitation projects, aircraft based remote sensing, and regional/local issues.

For further background on the goals of the JFSP, those considering submitting proposals and other interested parties are encouraged to review the Joint Fire Science Plan, which is available via the Internet at: <http://jfsp.nifc.gov>. The JFSP has issued AFPs every year since 1998 and subsequently selected and funded more than 300 projects. Previous AFPs and lists of funded projects can be found on the program web site. Historically approximately 25% of submitted proposal have received funding.

The Governing Board does not fund projects that are or should be internally funded from existing

accounts (such as routine agency monitoring) or operational portions (such as the installation of fuels treatments or development of Fire Management Plans) of other projects.

The JFSP encourages pre-proposals from all interested parties. However, because the focus of the JFSP is on wildland fire and fuels issues on Federal wildlands, evidence of direct involvement by Federal scientists or land managers in the development of pre-proposals must be included in all pre-proposals. **Pre-proposals that do not have evidence of direct involvement by federal land managers or scientists will not be considered for funding.**

B. Proposal Submission

All pre-proposals must include the following items to be considered. The JFSP program office must receive the pre-proposal package by close of business (5:00 pm MST) November 14, 2006. There will be no exceptions to this closing date. Incomplete pre-proposals will not be considered.

Facsimile or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

1. One original and **ten (10)** copies of complete pre-proposal packet including all material.
2. An electronic version on a compact disk (in MS Word or editable pdf format) must be included.
3. Signature and complete address including phone number, mailing address, surface mail address (if different than mail address) and e-mail address of principal investigator.
4. Letters of support are not required at this time. Selected pre-proposals may submit letters of support along with the full proposal to be considered in the peer review process. .

Questions and proposals should be directed to:

Dr. Erik Berg
Program Manager
Joint Fire Science Program
National Interagency Fire Center
3833 S. Development Ave.
Boise ID 83705
phone (208) 387-5349
email: Erik_Berg@nifc.blm.gov

C. Area of Interest for Proposals

This AFP contains one Task Statement. Pre-Proposals submitted in response to the task statement should clearly state which of the three area of interest, stated below, is being addressed.

Task 1: The JFSP requests pre-proposals (two pages) for studies that will build on or extend results of completed JSFP research, propose re-measurement of past study sites or experimental plots, or evaluate and test models or modeling systems.

Following pre-proposal evaluation and review, selected pre-proposers will be asked to submit a

full proposal for consideration and peer review.

The JFSP requests pre-proposals (**no more than two pages**) for studies that will build on or extend results of completed JSFP research, propose re-measurement of past study sites or experimental plots, or evaluate and test models or modeling systems. Particular areas of interest include: methodology for remote sensing of fire behavior and fuels characteristics; integrating fuels information with fire behavior models; comparing and evaluating practicality and effectiveness of models; re-measurement or installation of additional sites for studies of effects/effectiveness of Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) and Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation (ESR) treatments; additional (multi-year) data collection on rapid response, or local needs studies; and intermediate effects of fuel treatments on ecosystem characteristics, wildlife populations or habitats.

Pre-proposals are solicited for the following types of studies in the areas of interest:

- 1) **Studies that will build on or extend results of completed JFSP research.** Studies proposed under this task statement can include:
 - a. Development of new applications for previous research or models
 - b. Further testing of previous results through new studies or experiments; or
 - c. Integration of the results of previous work with that from other studies or regions.

- 2) **Re-measurement of past study sites or experimental plots.**

For certain completed JFSP projects there is considerable added value in repeat measurements of experimental plots or sites several years after the studies were installed. The objective might be to determine mid-term responses of vegetation, fuels, soil characteristics, wildlife populations or habitat, or other ecosystem parameters to treatments. Studies proposed for re-measurement should include treatments that were originally implemented at least 4-5 years before the proposed measurement period. Pre-proposals must clearly state the added value to be obtained from re-measurements at this time. Examples might include: ecosystem effects of fuels treatments, evaluation of model predictions, or effects of rehabilitation or restoration treatments on vegetation recovery.

- 3) **Evaluation and testing of models or modeling systems.**

Proposals are requested to evaluate or validate the accuracy of models or modeling systems that were developed all or in part with funding from the Joint Fire Science program. Of particular interest are models of landscape dynamics of fuels or fire behavior; models that link fuels or other factors to fire behavior; predictive models intended to support fire and fuels management planning decisions at a stand to landscape scale; or integrated models of that incorporate social and economic dimensions of fire and fuels management with biophysical response models.

D. Special Requirements

Pre-proposals submitted in response to this AFP must conform to the following special requirements that are specific to this AFP.

This AFP is intended to support work additional to that funded previously by JFSP; we will not support completion of work that was included in the approved plan of work for previously

funded projects.

Only pre-proposals that build on completed JFSP studies will be considered. The original study is complete if a final report was submitted to the Program Office prior to September 30, 2005.

For information concerning the original proposals including status of the final reports and JFSP project number either refer to the JFSP web page (<http://jfsp.nifc.gov>) or contact the original Principle Investigators. **DO NOT contact the Program Office.**

Pre-proposals will be reviewed by the Governing Board to determine which proposed projects best meet the intent of this solicitation. PI's of the selected pre-proposals will be invited to submit full proposals. PI's of selected pre-proposals will be notified by e-mail no later than **January 11, 2006**. To be considered in the final selection process, full proposals must be received by the Program Office by **February 28, 2006**. Full proposals will go through the normal JFSP peer review process. Not all of the full proposals submitted for consideration will be funded.

Full proposals will need to meet the normal proposal submission requirements including signature of Principal Investigator, a Federal Cooperator, and appropriate Federal Fiscal Representative. See AFP 2006-3 available on the JFSP web page (<http://jfsp.nifc.gov>) for specific submission requirements.

E. Format for Pre-Proposals

Overview of the Pre -Proposal Format

The pre-proposal should specify rationale, objectives, methodologies, and deliverables in sufficient detail to allow an informed reader to assess the pre-proposal's validity in addressing the Task Statements in the AFP. The pre-proposal text and accompanying tables and figures, exclusive of curricula vitae or other appended information, should be limited to **2 (two)** pages (excluding the title page). Please use at least 11-point font. Estimated annual and total budgets and a project timeline must be included, as well as a list of significant deliverables.

All pre-proposals must be submitted in the attached format (Appendix A) to be considered. Additional elements may be added as needed by the Proposers, but all elements contained in the required format and order must be retained.

Title Page

The attached template (Appendix A) must be used for the title page. The title page may not exceed 1(one) page in length). The information required to be completed on the Title Pages is:

- Project Title:
- **Announcement for Proposals and task statement this pre-proposal is responding to:**
- **Original JFSP project(s) this pre-proposal is linked to:**
 - Title
 - PI project number (from JFSP web site)

- Original Principal Investigator
- Principal Investigator(s):
 - Affiliation:
 - Address:
 - Telephone/Facsimile Number(s):
 - E-mail:
- Federal Cooperator: Include full mail and e-mail address as well as phone and facsimile number (Signature of Federal Cooperator will not be required until full proposal is requested)
- Duration of Project: Include both the actual calendar dates of the proposal and the federal fiscal years for the proposal.
- Annual Funding Requested from the Joint Fire Science Program: by Federal Fiscal Year (October 1 to September 30)
- Total Funding Requested from the Joint Fire Science Program:
- ***Total Value of In-Kind and Financial Contributions:***
- Abstract: Summarize the proposed project in a brief abstract not to exceed the available space in the Title Page Template. The abstract should include the justification for the proposed project in relation to one or more task statements in the AFP, objectives, appropriate methodology, and applicability of results.
- Signature of PI

I. Introduction

An introductory section should include:

- 1) Project Justification. A summary how the information or product(s) builds on the previously completed JFSP project.
- 2) Project Objectives. A statement of the project objective(s) must be clearly stated and measurable. This should include a brief statement of what information or product(s) will be provided at the end of the project and benefits derived.

II. Materials and Methods

This section should be a summary of the procedures proposed for conducting the project in sufficient detail that the relationship to the previously completed JFSP project can be determined.

This section should be a **very abbreviated** methods section typically found in research study plans or scientific peer-reviewed journal articles. At a minimum, methods should **succinctly** identify the following if applicable or appropriate:

- A description of the original studies or models.
- A description of how the proposed work will build on, or enhance the products from the previously completed projects.

III. Project Duration

Selected proposals will generally not be approved for longer than three years. Pre-proposals should

provide a proposed timeline for the project that identifies the significant milestones to be achieved.

Agreement funding (except for proposals received for AFP 2006-2 Task 2) is typically not available until late summer following selection and funding approval decision by the Governing Board. Projects will most likely not be funded in time to complete substantial amounts of fieldwork the summer following funding decisions. Proposers should adjust project schedules accordingly.

IV. Budget

A summary of an estimated budget using the following format must be included in body of the pre-proposal. Pre-proposals that are selected for submission of a full proposal will be required to submit a detailed budget.

Table x. Pre-Proposal Budget Summary for FYs 200x, 200y, and 200z

Budget Item	200x		200y		200z	
	Requested	Contributed	Requested	Contributed	Requested	Contributed
LABOR						
TRAVEL						
VEHICLES						
CAPITALIZED EQUIPMENT:						
MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES:						
SCIENCE DELIVERY AND APPLICATION:						
OTHER						
TOTAL DIRECT COSTS						
INDIRECT COSTS: XX% - of total direct costs (if applicable)						
TOTAL REQUESTED JFSP FUNDING		xxxxxxx		xxxxxxx		xxxxxxx

Salary Policy

Normally, salaries of permanent full-time employees are expected to be provided by their agencies. This is also true of university faculty on 12-month tenure-track appointments. These employees are already fully funded by their institutions. However, the Governing Board recognizes there can be some unique situations where the Governing Board may agree to fund the salary of permanent employees.

A detailed justification for funding the salary of permanent employees will not be required until a full proposal is requested for selected pre-proposals. The justification will need to indicate all sources of funding, including other pending projects and associated FTE for the permanent position

for which salary funding is requested. The justification must be certified by the agency administrator, research line officer or other appropriate institutional authority, other than the PI or other cooperator on the proposal, at the employee's organization or institution.

The format included in this AFP (Appendix B) **must** be used for the certification. In addition, permanent employee salary costs must be explicitly identified in the project budget. The Governing Board requires no special justification (other than a brief description of the need for the position in the budget justification section of the proposal) for funding temporary or term employees, post-doctoral employees, graduate, or undergraduate students. Stipends are normally funded, but tuition fees are not.

V. Deliverables

Deliverables include final reports, published articles, data, results, software, tools, and other information or products developed during the proposed research project. Pre-proposals must provide specific details on the significant deliverables that will be provided by the proposed work, along with realistic delivery dates. Submit information about deliverables using the following table or similar format.

Deliverable	Description	Delivery Date(s)

VI. Expected Benefits of the pre-proposal

Provide a concise summary of the benefits expected from the results of the proposal either to the land management, fire managers or research community.

F. Submission Checklist

Proposers are encouraged to use the following checklist prior to submitting their proposals to ensure all required items are addressed.

Checklist of items that must be included in pre-proposal Submissions:

- One original and **ten (10)** copies of complete proposal packet including all material.
- An electronic version on a compact disk (in MS Word or pdf format) must be submitted with the packet.
- Signature and complete address including mailing address, surface mail address (if different than mail address), phone numbers and e-mail address of the principal investigator(s)
- An introduction or background section that includes the specific objectives of the project, and describes how the proposed work is relevant to the Task Statement in the AFP.

- An estimated project budget summary, including identification of salaries and indirect costs.
- A list of significant deliverables with dates of delivery.

Facsimile or e-mailed proposals will not be accepted.

G. Review and Evaluation

Reviews and evaluations of pre-proposals submitted in response to this AFP to the Joint Fire Science Program will focus on the following two factors:

- Relevancy
- Products and Delivery into Application

Criteria associated with the factors include:

Relevancy:

1. Does the pre-proposal address the Task Statement in the AFP?
2. How relevant is the proposed work to field level personnel?
3. Does the Project Justification adequately describe how the project relates to the previously completed project?
4. Is there evidence that land managers need the proposed work?

Products

1. Does the proposal complement or strengthen the previously completed project?
2. At what scale will the proposed work provide information or products? Are the products useful across agency jurisdictions, fuel types, and geographic areas?
3. Will the final product(s) stand alone and be complete or need further work or development to be useful?

Following pre-proposal evaluation and review by the Governing Board, selected pre-proposals will be asked to submit a full proposal prior to final selection and funding. Full proposals will be subject to the peer review panel process.

H. Definitions

Agency Administrator: The agency Administrator is the federal official responsible for administering policy on an area of public land who has full authority for making decisions and providing direction. Also known as "Agency Line Officer," "Line Officer," and "Land Manager." Examples include Park Superintendent, Forest Supervisor, District Manager, Refuge Manager, District Ranger, and Field Office Manager. Research line officers are not included for the purpose of this AFP.

Announcement for Proposals (or AFP): Joint Fire Science Program method of requesting

proposals. Announcements for Proposals include Task Statements for which proposals are sought, instructions for proposal submission, and related information.

Federal Fiscal Representative: The individual attached to the Federal proposers or Federal cooperator's unit who will be responsible for the administrative and fiscal aspects of the proposed work. This person will be responsible for receiving funding if the proposal is successful. This individual is typically an Administrative Officer, Contracting Officer, or Grants and Agreements Specialist.

Federal Cooperator: Representative of a Joint Fire Science Program partner agency.

Indirect Costs: Those costs that are a percentage of the overhead/administrative costs attributable to a specific research project. Examples include the cost of operations and maintenance such as janitorial, phone, and clerical services. The Joint Fire Science Program recognizes two types of indirect costs: "in-house" costs incurred by the agency, institution, or unit completing the research, and "pass-through" costs associated with passing funds to another agency, institution, or unit for the purpose of completing research.

Joint Fire Science Program Governing Board: An appointed, 10-person board, representing the JFSP partners, that manages the JFSP. The Board drafts and posts Announcements for Proposals, selects proposals for funding, supervises the JFSP Manager and program office, and conducts related business.

Joint Fire Science Program PI Workshop: Annual workshop, typically in the Spring, in which PIs of JFSP-funded projects provide progress reports, discuss research-related issues, and conduct other business.

Land Manager: see Agency Administrator

Principal Investigator (or PI): The individual identified in a proposal who is primarily responsible for completing a research project.

Point of Contact: The person that will be the main technical contact for the JFSP Office.

Problem Statement or Statement of Need: A brief statement, written and signed by the agency administrator, which clearly describes the need for the proposed work and how the proposed work would resolve the issue. The statement also includes the agency administrator's commitment to supporting the proposed work. The problem statement is typically one page or less.

Science Delivery and Application: The transfer of information, materials, models and other research deliverables to end users, along with adequate information and training to apply the deliverables. Examples of active methods include workshops, training sessions, guided field tours, conferences, meetings, and symposia. Examples of passive methods include published papers and websites. A combination of active and passive methods is preferred.

Task Statement: A specific area of interest, identified in an Announcement for Proposals, for which proposals are sought.

Stabilization: Planned actions to stabilize and prevent further unacceptable degradation to minimize threats to life or property resulting from the effects of a fire, critical natural and cultural resources, or to repair/replace/construct physical improvements necessary to prevent degradation of land or resources. Emergency Stabilization actions must be taken within one year of containment of the fire.

Rehabilitation: Efforts (non-emergency) undertaken within three years of a wildland fire to repair or improve fire-damaged lands unlikely to recover to management approved conditions.

Restoration: The continuation of rehabilitation beyond the initial three years

APPENDIX A – PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Project Title:		
Announcement for Proposals and task statement this proposal is responding to:	Joint Fire Sciences AFP 200x-x Task Y,	
Principal Investigator:	<Name>	
Affiliation:	<Organization/Unit/Institution>	
Address:	<Mailing Address>	
Phone:	<000-000-0000>	
Email:	<smokey@bear.com>	
Original JFSP Project(s) this proposal is linked to:	<Title> < PI project number (from JFSP web site)> <Original Principal Investigator>	
Federal Cooperator: (Signature will be required if a full proposal is requested)	<Name> <Affiliation> <Mailing Address> Email: <woods@owl.com> Phone: <000-000-0000> Fax: <000-000-0000>	
Duration of Project:	X calendar years (MM/YYYY through MM/YYYY); X fiscal years	
Annual Funding Requested:	FY200x: \$ FY200y: \$ FY200z: \$	
Total JFSP Funding Requested:	\$xx,xxx	
Total Value of In-Kind Contributions:	\$xx,xxx	
Abstract:		
Signature of PI:	<Signature>	<Date>

I. Introduction

<Narrative>

1. Project Justification

<Narrative>

2. Project Objectives

<Narrative>

II. Materials and Methods

1. Description of the original studies or models

<Narrative>

2. Proposed Work

<Narrative>

III. Project Duration and Timeline

This project will last approximately x years, assuming a start date in Month of Year, with completion in Month of Year.

Time Period (Month/Year)

- Project Milestone(s)

Time Period (Month/Year)

- Project Milestone(s)

Time Period (Month/Year)

- Project Milestone(s)

IV. Budget

Table x. Proposal Budget Summary for FYs 200x, 200y, and 200z

Budget Item	200x		200y		200z	
	Requested	Contributed	Requested	Contributed	Requested	Contributed
LABOR						
TRAVEL						
VEHICLES						
Capitalized Equipment:						
Materials and Supplies:						
Science Delivery and Application:						
Other						
Total Direct Costs						
Indirect Costs: XX% - of total direct costs (if applicable)						
Total Requested JFSP Funding		xxxxxxx		xxxxxxx		xxxxxxx

V. Deliverables

<Narrative>

Table x. Deliverable, Description and Delivery Dates

Deliverable	Description	Delivery Dates

VI. Expected Benefits of the Proposal

<Narrative>

APPENDIX B – SALARY JUSTIFICATION

**Certification to the Joint Fire Science Program
Justification of Need for Salary Support**

I hereby certify the attached Justification of Need to provide temporary salaries for full-time permanent employee (s) _____ (*list name of employee(s)*) is necessary and appropriate to enable him/her (them) to fully and directly participate in the proposed project.

Justification:

I understand that salary funding for this/these employee(s) directly involved in the proposed project is temporary and will not be provided beyond the duration of the proposed project.

Signature _____

Date _____

Name (type or print) _____

Title _____

Phone Number _____