

Interest Announcement: Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative Request for Statements of Interest for Interagency Agreements

Background: Resource managers concerned with conservation of natural and cultural resources are faced with increasing challenges. Such challenges include water scarcity, land-use change, impacts to traditional or historical resources, species protection and recovery, and a range of other complex issues, all of which are further complicated by climate change. To assist resource managers dealing with these issues, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is participating in the Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC). LCC efforts represent a broader vision of conservation that includes working with partners across landscapes to ensure that science and technology capacities are in place that successfully address 21st-century conservation challenges. For more information about the Southern Rockies LCC, please see the Web site available at: <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/lcc/south.html>

Objective of this Interest Announcement: Reclamation is requesting statements of interest (SOI) from other Federal agencies to partner with Reclamation to address certain Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Science Needs identified by the SRLCC, described below. Through these interagency agreements, Reclamation seeks to develop applied science tools and information that will help resource managers within the SRLCC address landscape-scale stressors on the environment. Proposed projects are expected to deliver new capabilities by developing knowledge, information, and tools that will lead to enhanced management of natural and cultural resources within the Southern Rockies LCC.

Estimated Amount of Funding: Approximately \$200,000 is available for interagency agreements under this Interest Announcement. SOIs submitted may also be considered if additional funding becomes available in FY 2012 or FY 2013.

Estimated Number of Agreements:

Reclamation intends to award 2-4 interagency agreements under this Interest Announcement with a maximum of \$100,000 allocated to each agreement. Reclamation reserves the right to enter into more or less agreements based on the funding available and responses received.

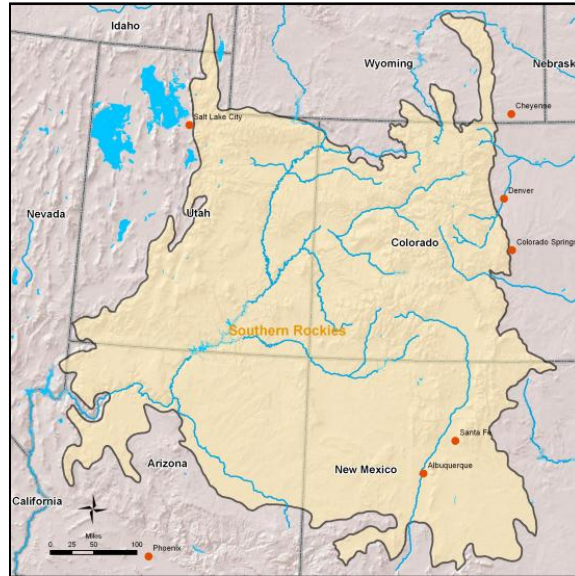
Cost-Share: Federal agencies selected to enter into an interagency agreement with Reclamation through this interest announcement must contribute cash or in-kind services equal to 50 percent or more of the total project costs. Project pre-award costs that have been incurred within one year prior to entering into an interagency agreement with Reclamation (i.e., costs incurred between August 2011 and August 2012) may be submitted for consideration.

Length of Activities: Applied science projects must be completed within two years from the date of funding.

Geographic Extent: The proposed project must fit within the geographic extent of the Southern Rockies LCC:



**Interest Announcement: Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Request for Statements of Interest for Interagency Agreements**



Geographic extent of the Southern Rockies LCC.

Eligible Applicants: Federal agencies including, Executive Departments, Bureaus and Offices within an Executive Department, and any other independent establishment of the Government.

Eligible Projects: In FY 2012, the Southern Rockies LCC conducted a process to identify priority science needs and projects for 2012 funding. A full listing of all SRLCC FY 2012 science needs and projects can be found at: <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/lcc/south.html>.

For the purposes of this interest announcement, Reclamation has identified those SRLCC FY 2012 science needs and projects that best meet Reclamation’s authorities and mission and the requirements for interagency agreements. Accordingly, projects eligible for consideration under this request are described in Table 1 as follows:

Table 1: Projects Eligible for Consideration under this Request for Statements of Interest	
Eligible Projects	Related SRLCC FY 2012 Science Need
1. Complete digitizing of National Wetlands Inventory Maps for SRLCC portions of Colorado and Utah.	SRLCC Science Need A: Develop a model to inform management decisions related to habitat protection/preservation for desired population numbers of riparian obligate and wetland species
2. Evaluating current locations of streamflow gauges and identifying the most effective locations to supplement the existing network.	SRLCC Science Need D: Identify changes in source-water runoff and resultant changes to surface/groundwater flows
3. Developing seamless digital maps, usable in GIS platforms for spatial data analysis, of all pertinent data layers that are useful for conservation planning and analysis within the SRLCC.	SRLCC Science Need F: Spatial Data (including GIS layers) to acquire vegetation land cover, land use, water utilization, energy development, population centers – current and potential future, recreation use, etc. to aid in identification of LCC focal resources and associated needs.

**Interest Announcement: Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Request for Statements of Interest for Interagency Agreements**

Table 1: Projects Eligible for Consideration under this Request for Statements of Interest	
Eligible Projects	Related SRLCC FY 2012 Science Need
<p>4. Projects that that address Science Needs A, D, and E will also be considered. Proposed projects may include, but are not limited to, the projects identified by the SRLCC under each of these Science Needs, available at: http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/lcc/south.html</p>	<p>SRLCC Science Need A: Develop a model to inform management decisions related to habitat protection/preservation for desired population numbers of riparian obligate and wetland species</p> <p>SRLCC Science Need D: Identify changes in source-water runoff and resultant changes to surface/groundwater flows</p> <p>SRLCC Science Need E: Incorporate climate change projections and ecological flow needs into existing or new hydrological models, offering water managers information about water supply scenarios to support decisions about water allocation to meet human and ecological needs.</p>

Economy Act Requirements: In addition to meeting the description of “Eligible Projects” in Table 1, projects must also meet the requirements of the Economy Act, described as follows:

- Use of an interagency acquisition is in the **best interest of the Government**; and
- The supplies or services **cannot be obtained as conveniently or economically** by contracting directly with a **private source**.

Evaluation Criteria: Reclamation will evaluate the statements of interests based on their relevancy to the SRLCC FY 2012 Science Needs and overall benefits relative to the SRLCC, in accordance with the following criteria:

- **Relevance of the project to the Southern Rockies LCC**
 - How well the proposed project meets the Science Need and Eligible Projects described in Table 1
 - Whether the proposal described in the SOI would complement, not duplicate other efforts ongoing within the SRLCC
 - Whether the project would result in an applied science tool useful to resource managers within the SRLCC; this includes consideration of how results will be disseminated
 - Whether the project is either broad in geographic scope or would result in tools or information applicable across the LCC

Interagency agreements will be awarded to the agencies whose submission(s) best fit the objectives identified in this announcement.

Review and Selection Process: Reclamation will conduct an internal review of all SOIs received, using the criteria identified above. Reclamation may seek input from the Steering

**Interest Announcement: Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative
Request for Statements of Interest for Interagency Agreements**

Committee and any other resource as deemed necessary to clarify FY 2012 SRLCC priorities and/or determine the technical merit of the submissions. To eliminate potential conflicts of interest, entities that submit a SOI under this interest announcement will be required to recuse themselves from discussions related to the selection of SOIs submitted. Upon selection, the servicing agency will be required to submit a detailed work plan for the selected project that identifies the scope of the work, deliverables, the period of performance, details of the cost sharing arrangement, and any applicable project milestones.

Award Date: Reclamation expects to notify applicants of its selections in August 2012 and plans to enter into interagency agreements prior to the end of FY 2012. SOIs submitted under this notice may also be considered in FY 2013 if funding is available.

Submittal Requirements: SOIs must not exceed 5 pages and must address the following:

- General description of the project
- Eligibility of the applicant
- Eligibility of the project, including which Science Need and Project Description in Table 1 it addresses, and how it addresses them; and, how the proposed project meets the requirements of the Economy Act
- Relevance of the project to the SRLCC (address each of the sub-bullets in the Evaluation Criteria described above)
- Timeframe for completion of the project
- Availability of staff and resources to complete the project, including the availability of 50% cost share funding or in-kind services

Program Authorities: This Interest Announcement is issued under the authority of the Economy Act, 31 USC 1535.

Deadline for Statements of Interest: This interest announcement will be posted on Reclamation's website at, <http://www.usbr.gov/WaterSMART/lcc/index.html>. SOIs must be submitted by **Friday, June 22, 2012**.

Submit to: Interested Federal entities should submit a statement of interest (not to exceed 5 pages) to Seshu Vaddey, Bureau of Reclamation, svaddey@usbr.gov by **Friday, June 22, 2012**. If you have questions about this interest announcement, please contact Avra Morgan at aomorgan@usbr.gov or 303-445-2906.