



Tribal Consultation regarding Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes

Summary

The FY 2015 President's Budget request included an increase to establish a new "resilient landscapes" activity to improve the integrity and resilience of forests and rangelands by restoring natural vegetation landscapes to specific conditions and maintain fire resiliency. Subsequently, Congress provided \$10 million in the FY 2015 Fuels Management program to fund resilient landscape activities, as a pilot initiative. The Department of the Interior (DOI), Office of Wildland Fire (OWF) is initiating government-to-government tribal consultation to obtain input from Tribes on the development of the Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes (WFRL) program for FY 2016 and beyond. Funding for the WFRL program is proposed in the FY 2016 President's Budget for \$30 million.

Background

The Wildland Fire Resilient Landscape (WFRL) pilot program is a new approach to achieve fire resiliency goals across landscapes with collaborative efforts, as defined by the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy](#) and in support of Secretarial Order 3336 – [Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management, and Suppression](#). It is not a stand-alone program with additional permanent staff funded by the program. The goal of the WFRL pilot program is to strengthen the Wildland Fire Management program's ability to restore and maintain landscapes across all jurisdictions, so they are resilient to fire related disturbances in accordance with management objectives. For FY 2015, during the pilot program, the wildland fire approach to WFRL used an integrated, place-based approach of partnerships among programs, activities, and organizations to increase resilience to fire. Close collaboration between the wildland fire and resource management programs is essential to address broad land-health outcomes and the ecological role of fire in fire-adapted ecosystems.

In FY 2015, the WFRL pilot program placed priority on proposals where landscape characteristics were at elevated risk posed by wildfire and where fire risk could be mitigated (reduce the chance of large catastrophic fires) and re-established the ecological function of fire for enhancing or protection of critical natural resources and watersheds. Resilient Landscape Collaboratives (i.e., approved proposals) received funding at a scale to provide results over five to ten years that will significantly contribute to long-term outcomes. Those submitted proposals with a demonstrated ability to begin implementation in FY 2015 received priority.

Current Status

On June 12, 2015, Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell, announced the WFRL proposal awards for FY 2015. The selected proposals referred to as Resilient Landscape Collaboratives (RLC), leverage, on average, WFRL funding at a 2:1 match with other natural resource program funding and partner contributions. The RLCs will contribute to restoring fire resilience in a variety of fire-adapted ecosystems across the country.

To learn more about the [FY 2015 WFRL pilot program](#).

Questions to Consider

Questions to consider regarding Wildland Fire Resilient Landscapes might include:

- What recommendations do you have to improve the WFRL process?
- What project evaluation criteria should we apply to address tribal interests?
- How should success be measured?

How to Comment

- Submit written comments directly via email at consultation_owf@ios.doi.gov, fax at (202)606-3150 or by mail to: DOI Office of Wildland Fire 1849 C Street NW MS-2660, Washington DC 20240. Comments are requested by August 20, 2015.
- Attend a tribal consultation session on July 21, 2015, in Albuquerque, NM, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (MDT), at the DOI University/National Indian Programs Training Center, located at 1011 Indian School Road NW, Suite 254, Classroom 234, Albuquerque, NM 87104.
- Attend a tribal consultation session on July 23, 2015, in Spokane, WA, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (PDT), at the Double Tree by Hilton Spokane City Center, located at 322 N Spokane Falls Court, Spokane, WA 99201.
- Attend a web-based consultation from your computer, tablet or smartphone on August 13, 2015, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (MDT).
 - Link to the [GoTo Meeting](#) or dial-in using your phone 1(408)650-3131. Access Code: 486-060-965

Reference Material

We recommend tribes reference [Office of Wildland Fire Policy Memorandum 2015-004, Resilient Landscapes Pilot Program Guidance](#), which describes the WFRL policy, purpose, background, scope, and timeline.