




FEDERAL NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY ACCOUNT (FNRPA)

Who and what is eligible for funding?

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WCCA NEPA Training -- July 10, 2019



FNRPA Overview

Authorized in Wyoming Statute 9-4-218

...Funds within the account may be expended by the governor on behalf of the state of Wyoming and its local governments, to take any of the actions specified in this subsection in response to federal land, water, air, mineral and other natural resource policies which may affect the tax base of the state, wildlife management, state species, recreation, private property rights, water rights or leasehold rights. Funds also may be expended for preparing and participating in environmental impact statements and environmental assessments, including analysis of economic or social and natural or physical environmental effects on the human environment. Funds also may be expended for coordinating and participating in rangeland health assessments pursuant to W.S. 11-2-207.

Typically \$1M/biennium (\$500k per year)

FNRPA: Who is eligible?

State and local governments

- *Counties & county commissions*
 - May endorse funds to go to:
 - *Cities*
 - *Conservation Districts*
- *State agencies*

Who typically performs the work:

- *Local government consortiums*
 - Wyoming County Commissioners Association
 - Coalition of Local Governments
- *3rd party contractors*
- *Agencies themselves*

FNRPA: What is funded?

1. Participation in the development of EISs, EAs and federal land use plans
2. Cooperation and coordination-related activities (i.e.- outreach events, trainings, or workshops)
3. Technical assistance and special projects (i.e.- mapping efforts, database management, socioeconomic analyses, rangeland health assessments)
4. Providing representation in legal matters

How has FNRPA been allocated?

2018

Date of Letter	Payee	Amount	Description
9/20/2018	Coalition of Local Governments	\$80,000.00	Sage-Grouse 9 Plan Amendments
9/20/2018	Coalition of Local Governments	\$8,000.00	BLM's National Environmental Policy Act Processes for Wild Horse Gathers in Rock Springs Field Office
9/20/2018	Coalition of Local Governments	\$24,288.78	Gateway West Project
9/20/2018	Coalition of Local Governments	\$40,000.00	Expanded Wilderness Study and National Forest Roadless Areas
9/20/2018	Coalition of Local Governments	\$120,000.00	Rock Springs Resource Management Plan Amendment
9/19/2018	Campbell County Board of Commissioners	\$136,000.00	Thunder Basin National Grasslands Plan Amendment
3/21/2018	Cook County	extending	Phase 2 amendment to the Black Hills National Forest Project; Reallocation Rare Element Resources Bear Lodge Mine Project

How has FNRPA been allocated?

2017

Date of Letter	Payee	Amount	Description
12/29/2017	Coalition of Local Governments	\$39,600.00	Sage-Grouse 9 Plan Amendments
12/29/2017	Sublette County Commissioner	\$13,600.00	Upper Green River Area Rangeland Project Objection
12/29/2017	Sublette County Commissioner	\$8,800.00	BLM 2017 TNR EA legal challenge
12/29/2017	Coalition of Local Governments	\$10,200.00	DOI Compensatory Mitigation policy review
12/29/2017	Coalition of Local Governments	\$48,240.00	Bridger-Teton National Forest Land Use Plan Amendment
12/29/2017	Coalition of Local Governments	\$29,600.00	BLM Kemmerer Field Office grazing permit renewals
12/29/2017	Coalition of Local Governments	\$56,720.00	Travel Management Planning ; BLM roads within the agency's Kemmerer, Pinedale, Rock Springs, and Rawlins Field Offices
3/24/2017	Sublette County Conservation District	\$20,168.00	Envirionmental Assessment under the National Envirionmental Policy Act for authorization of Temporary Non-Renewable grazing permits on BLM lands
2/24/2017	Campbell County Commission	\$32,305.00	2017 Raptor Symposium organization by ERG \$17,959; planning by DRU \$3,250; transport, lodging, meals \$8,691; presenter stipends \$3,750 and proceeding preparation and printing \$3,000
1/12/2017	Coalition of Local Governments	\$20,640.00	extention of the BLM Rock Springs RMP project
1/12/2017	WY County Commissioners Association/Greg Cowan	\$360,000.00	funds are provided to continue the funding of one full-time attorney for a two year period to assist counties through various natural resource issues

How to request funds

PROCESS:

- Funding requests → Submit in writing to the Governor's Office 2x/year (exceptions for year-round submissions are allowed)
- Approvals → Recipients will be notified in writing; extensions are allowed on a case-by-case basis

How to request funds

PROCESS, cont'd.:

- Payments – Accepted quarterly; payments will not be honored for expenses greater than one year old

- Reports
 - *Annual status reports* – Governor's Office will provide an annual basis; will include original request amount, funds paid to-date and total funds remaining
 - *Project closure* – Funding recipients must submit a report of activities when close-out of project is complete

How to request funds

FUNDING CONSIDERATION FACTORS:

1. *Historical Funding* – How much FNRPA funds have been awarded in the past, proportionate to other requests and awards in the current application cycle?
2. *Outstanding grant amounts* – Are there other approved FNRPA requests for the applicant that have not been paid out?
3. *Total project cost*
4. *How much unobligated FNRPA funding is available?*

How to request funds

FUNDING CONSIDERATION FACTORS, cont'd.:

4. *Is the project ready to move forward?*
5. *Has the applicant hired an engineer/consultant? – If so, is the selected consultant located in or out-of-state?*
6. *Is the applicant providing matching funds?*
7. *Are there other funding sources involved? – Applicants are encouraged to apply a 20% self-funded (or other funding source) match of the total project cost.*

How to request funds

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Written request (electronic or hard copy letters) indicating the following, at a minimum:
 1. *Project description*
 2. *Total cost*
 3. *Projected budget*
 4. *Anticipated project duration*
 5. *Previous use of FNRPA funds (within the past 2 years)*
 6. *Indication if a 3rd party contractor will be required to complete the project; outline of products contractor will provide*
 7. *For multiple party requests, indicate a primary point of contact*

HB54/HEA 22 – County Natural Resource Plans

W.S. 9-4-218(a)(intro) and by creating a new paragraph (viii) is amended to read:

- ...The governor may expend funds from the federal natural resource policy account for:
 - *(viii) Development and revision of comprehensive natural resource management plans prepared by counties.*

Only counties are eligible

One-time appropriation of \$1.15M

HB54/HEA 22 – County Natural Resource Plans

PROCESS:

- July 1, 2019 – July 1, 2020
 - Funds are available **not to exceed \$50,000 to each county**

- July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021
 - **Counties may request additional allocation for use of any unexpended, unobligated and uncommitted funds remaining**

- July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
 - **Any unexpended, unobligated funds remaining from this appropriation shall revert to the general fund on June 30, 2022**

Applications should follow the same procedures as other FNRPA requests

See Governor's Office memos for guidelines

HB54/HEA 22 – County Natural Resource Plans

CRITERIA:

1. Allow for public participation and contribution
2. Content
 - **Resource assessments** -- Background and detailed information on the resource
 - **Resource Management Objectives** -- For each resource, describe general goals in the form of broad policy statements regarding the use, development and protection for each resource
 - **Priorities** – Describe specific priorities on how to achieve the county's Resource Management Objective for each resource

HB54/HEA 22 – County Natural Resource Plans

CRITERIA, cont'd.:

- Socioeconomics
- Review for consistency with State and federal law
- To the extent applicable for the county, address each of the following:
 - *Land use*
 - *Geology, mining and air*
 - *Water resources*
 - *Wildlife*
 - *Economics and society*
 - *Agriculture*

HB54/HEA 22 – County Natural Resource Plans

CRITERIA, cont'd.:

3. Collaboration with other agencies
 - Special districts, state and federal agencies

4. Provide for plan updates
 - Update as new information is acquired
 - Regular updates (i.e.- every 10-15 years)



QUESTIONS?

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