



FY 2017 USFS State and Private Landscape Scale Restoration

Competitive Program Grant Proposal

(<http://wflccenter.org/state-private-forestry/spf-grants/>)

Background

The KFS is applying for a \$300,000 grant with the USFS with the intent to support KDA-DOC's 2017 RCPP KS & CO Water Quality proposal for the Upper Arkansas River and Cimarron watersheds. The grant will focus on addressing the significant water quality issues of excessive salinity (sodium, sulfate and chloride) and the naturally occurring selenium and uranium.

Major Project Focus

The project will focus on the removal of phreatophytes with particular emphasis on tamarisk eradication. Along with irrigation diversions, phreatophytes tend to distill and re-distill residual dissolved solids degrading water quality. In addition to agricultural irrigation, phreatophytes further add to the declining Ogallala Aquifer. Even though tamarisk is an exotic invasive, producers often appreciate it for the wind protection it offers livestock and for wildlife habitat. Therefore, livestock and wildlife shelterbelts and windbreaks will be established as tamarisk is removed from riparian areas. Native cottonwood and willow communities will also be re-established in riparian areas where assessments determine the riparian woodlands can be sustained. EQIP, Water Resources and NPS cost-share programs and KDHE WRAPS are all programs that could potentially provide financial incentives to producers to participate in the project and implement BMPs.

Timelines

The grant application is due September 14, 2016. Notification of awards will occur in late November 2016 with funding arriving sometime in March or April 2017. Project implementation would not likely begin until fall of 2017. The project would run for 3 years with grant extensions up to 5 years.

Partner Support

This grant requires \$300,000 of "in-kind" match of non-federal funding. This support may be in the form of salaries, projected cost-share, and other forms that contribute to accomplishing grant deliverables. "Leveraging" (different from in-kind match) dollars is also considered a strength in the application. Unlike the match, leverage may include federal dollars such as RCPP.

What the Funding Supports

This funding would support a KFS forester to conduct assessments to locate appropriate planting sites, prepare shelterbelt, windbreak and riparian forestry establishment plans and conservation plans for the removal and control of tamarisk and other phreatophytes. The forester would be responsible for the promotion of the adoption of best management practices, assist with the application process through EQIP and other cost-share programs.

KFS Grant Contact

Bob Atchison, Rural Forestry Coordinator
Kansas Forest Service
2610 Claflin RD
Manhattan, KS 66502
785-532-3310
atchison@ksu.edu