



## Call for Proposals for Soil Health Projects

**Proposals must be received on or before Friday, March 3, 2017.**

The Soil Health Committee provides grant funding for innovative projects designed to improve soil health and soil conservation on agricultural and forest lands in Washington State. The committee consists of agricultural producers, educators, natural resource conservationists, state and federal agency representatives, and commercial agriculture representatives.

**SUMMARY:** The Washington Soil Health Committee is announcing the availability of competitive grants to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative approaches and technologies related to Soil Health on Washington agricultural and forest lands, as defined below. Proposals will be accepted from eligible entities in Washington State. The Soil Health Committee anticipates that the amount of funding available for support will be up to \$10,000 per year for each approved proposal, subject to appropriations actions. Proposals for competitive consideration of grant awards for single or multi-year projects not to exceed 3 years in duration are requested for projects that focus on innovation, resource assessment, research, education, and public outreach. Proposals will be considered from conservation districts, non-profit organizations, governmental entities, and landowners.

**Criteria:** Proposals are not to exceed \$10,000 per year for single or multi-year projects. A project must be completed within 3 years, with a maximum total award of \$30,000.

To be considered, the proposals must:

- (1) Focus on soil health as the Washington State Soil Health Committee defines it: “Soil health is defined as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living ecosystem that sustains plants, animals, and humans”;
- (2) Be feasible in light of proposed cost, including the availability of matching funds if available;
- (3) Identify the results and benefits to be derived from the proposed project activities, and explain how the results will be measured. Identify project beneficiaries, i.e., agricultural producers by type, region, or sector; historically underserved producers and communities; rural communities; and municipalities. Explain how these entities will benefit. Describe how the results will be communicated to others via outreach activities.
- (4) Clearly identify how the proposed project will be completed with a project report summary. Include a commitment to have all expenses invoiced by August 15 of the year for completion of the project.

Preference will be given to proposals that:

- (1) Include innovative tools that can be used by landowners and resource planners to make technically accurate soil health assessments on agricultural and forest lands on projects that could be at the field, watershed, or regional level. Projects may include new methods of sampling soil to measure biological activity, new field tools that help gather data and analyze the health of the soil, or new practices that enhance or conserve soil.
- (2) Are leveraged with other eligible support (including both cash and in-kind contributions) from third parties.
- (3) Include deliverables that USDA-NRCS or Washington State Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts can use for the development of technical and related technology transfer or allow them to successfully use the innovative approach or methods of the project.

This notice identifies the objectives, eligibility criteria, and application instructions for Soil Health projects. Proposals will be screened for completeness and compliance with the provisions of this notice.

**DATE:** Proposals must be received by the Soil Health Committee on or before close of business on March 3, 2017.

The Washington Soil Health Committee will not consider applications that do not meet the application requirements, are incomplete, or are submitted after the deadline date listed in this notice. Complete proposals received by the deadline will be evaluated by the Washington Soil Health Committee based on the above criteria and preferences. Instructions for proposal format are attached.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:** Gary Farrell, 509-253-2006, [farrellgr@agenterprise.com](mailto:farrellgr@agenterprise.com) or Lynn Bahrych, 360-468-3197, [bahrych@rockisland.com](mailto:bahrych@rockisland.com)

WASHINGTON STATE SOIL HEALTH COMMITTEE  
2017-2020 Proposal Format & Instructions

FORMAT

I. Title

II. Primary Contact Person (include name, email, mailing address, telephone number, fax number) and name of organization

III. Importance of Proposed Project (to soil health in Washington)

IV. Objectives of Project

V. Work Plan (how the work will be accomplished; other partners; current status of project if ongoing)

VI. Previous Experiences and Successes in similar work (summarize briefly)

VII. Budget (include brief budget narrative)

PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Limit application to three (3) pages or less.
2. Use 1" margins on all sides
3. Include website, Facebook, or Twitter links to your organization, if applicable, and to websites or LinkedIn profiles of any partners on the proposed project.

TO SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL:

Submit your proposal electronically or otherwise by March 3, 2017, by close of business to Gary Farrell, [farrelgr@agenterprise.com](mailto:farrelgr@agenterprise.com).