



**UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**



**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Fire and Aviation Directorate  
National Interagency Fire Center  
Lead Agency for the Joint Fire Science Program**

**Joint Fire Science Program**

The Joint Fire Science Program provides funding for scientific studies to address problems associated with managing wildland fuels, fires, and fire-impacted ecosystems.

Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act for FY 1998 and subsequent years  
(P.L. 105-83; H.R. Report 105-163)

**PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT No. FA-RFA10-0002  
Synthesis announcement (1 task statement)**

**CFDA No. 15.232**

**ISSUE DATE: September 25, 2009**

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**JFSP Request for Applications (RFA) 2010-2**

**CLOSING DATE & TIME**

**November 20, 2009 5:00 pm MST**

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## SECTION I. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

- A. Legislative Authority:** Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriation Act for FY 1998 and subsequent years (P.L. 105-83; H.R. Report 105-163).
- B. Project Background Information:** The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) is a partnership of six federal wildland management and research agencies with a need to address problems associated with managing wildland fuels, fires, and fire-impacted ecosystems. The partnering agencies include the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service and five bureaus in the U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Geological Survey.  
  
For further background on the JFSP, those considering submitting proposals are encouraged to visit our website at [www.firescience.gov](http://www.firescience.gov).
- C. Program/Project Objective:** The U.S. Congress directed the Department of the Interior and the USDA Forest Service to develop a Joint Fire Science Program and Plan to prioritize and provide sound scientific studies to support land management agencies. Current priorities are identified as task statements in this Request for Applications (RFA).
- D. Statement of Joint Objectives/Project Management Plan:** The JFSP Governing Board and Program Manager will establish an oversight relationship with the Federal Cooperator and Principal Investigator(s) on each funded project. Projects will be required, at a minimum, to provide a written progress report annually. Program Office staff will visit selected project sites each year.
- E. Period of Project:** The JFSP Governing Board generally anticipates that individual projects can be accomplished within 18 months or less.

## SECTION II. AWARD INFORMATION

- A. Expected Number of Awards:** Approximately 3-5
- B. Estimated Total Program Funding:** Approximately \$500,000 - \$600,000
- C. Award Ceiling:** None
- D. Assistance Instrument:** To be determined at a later date by the cooperating federal agency sponsoring the proposed project.

## SECTION III. ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

- A. Eligible Applicants:** The JFSP encourages proposals from all interested parties. However, because the focus of the JFSP is on wildland fire and fuels issues on federal wildlands, evidence of direct involvement by federal scientists or land managers in the development of proposals must be included in all proposals.

Upon receipt of a fully executed Inter/Intra-Agency Agreement or other appropriate funding document and award of funds, the sponsoring federal agency will be responsible for all sub-award transactions to cooperators or contractors related to the project, e.g. universities, other federal agencies, state and local agencies, research institutes, and non-profit organizations. The individual federal agencies sponsoring proposed projects will be not be required to re-announce opportunities for assistance agreements in Grants.gov that were submitted to them under this

announcement. The federal agency sponsoring the project must abide by their agency's contract/grants and agreements authorities, regulations, policy and procedures in all sub-award transactions. The end date for all sub-awards must match the end date in the funding transfer document. Prior to award, the recipient federal agency shall register and/or maintain their own information with Dun & Bradstreet and the Central Contractor Registration/Business Partner Network System. To obtain a valid Dun & Bradstreet Number (D&B) or re-validate an inactive number contact Dun & Bradstreet at <http://www.dnb.com>/or by calling them at 800-333-0505. There is a Federal Agency registration link on the Central Contractor Registration System (CCR) at <http://www.ccr.gov>.

**B. Cost Sharing or Matching:** This program has no matching requirements.

## **SECTION IV. APPLICATION and SUBMISSION INFORMATION**

### **A. Proposal Submission and Agency Contact**

Your proposal must be submitted by 5:00 pm MST November 20, 2009, using the electronic submission process provided on the JFSP website [www.firescience.gov](http://www.firescience.gov). Proposals should not be submitted in Grants.gov. There will be no exceptions to this closing date and time.

All proposals must meet all requirements in Section D (Proposal Application Requirements). Proposals that do not meet all requirements in this section will not be considered for funding.

Proposals must be submitted in the appropriate task statement being addressed. The proposal will be reviewed and its merits judged in the context of this one task statement only.

#### **Questions should be directed to:**

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National Interagency Fire Center  
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### **B. Task Statement**

#### **Syntheses of existing knowledge**

The Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) is interesting in sponsoring projects that synthesize existing information in a form that is useful to land managers. The goal is to present information on topics of importance to land managers that have a sufficient base of existing knowledge to support a synthesis and management interpretation. Synthesis proposals should identify how the investigators intend to interact with fire and fuels managers to ensure that relevant results are summarized in ways useful to them.

JFSP is interested in synthesis proposals on the following topics:

Eastern oak restoration – Fire exclusion, human uses, and climate change have created significant challenges for oak management in the eastern US (approximately east of the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian). JFSP seeks a synthesis of approaches to oak restoration and management in the eastern US that highlights the role of fire in meeting management goals. Investigators should summarize knowledge regarding how the role of fire may change according to season of application, stage of stand and regeneration development, and site quality gradients; and identify the known influences of deer herbivory, acorn predation, and other disturbance processes on oak regeneration. To the extent that these relationships vary across the region, the synthesis should describe these regional variations. In addition to synthesizing existing knowledge in a form useful to land managers, syntheses should identify future research needs to support oak restoration.

Guides to fuels treatment practices – A comprehensive guide to fuels treatment practices following an established format (RMRS GTR-198, SRS GTR – 110). Evidence of plans to draw upon the knowledge and experience of land managers is required. We seek proposals to address the following major species: Rocky Mountain lodgepole pine, chaparral and mountain shrub, and longleaf pine.

Proposed work should include some form of interaction with land managers to help refine the management questions of interest and determine the format of products that will be most useful to them.

Proposals also need to include evidence that there is sufficient information available to support a synthesis at this time. Proposals need to identify the scope of the synthesis and major sources of data that will be used to support the synthesis. Proposed work must be completed in a 12-18 month timeframe.

## C. Format Overview

The proposal should specify methods, data sources, and proposed mechanisms for interactions with land managers in sufficient detail to allow an informed reader to assess the proposal's validity in addressing the task statements.

The proposal text (Attachment 1) must be limited to **four (4) pages**. Proposals must use at least **11 point font**.

Project applications must meet all requirements in **Section IV.B.4 (application requirements)** to be considered. Proposals that do not meet all requirements in this section will not be considered for funding.

All proposed project applications must be submitted using the electronic submission process provided on the JFSP website. The attached format (**Attachment 1**) must be used for the proposal to be considered.

Successful proposals must be completed in a relatively short timeframe, i.e., 18 months or less.

### 1. Methods

Briefly describe your approach to conducting this synthesis.

**2. Data sources**

- What sources of information are available to support a synthesis? Seminal publications and other highly referenced scientific papers should be part of the collection of information.
- Is there a sufficient body of science to warrant the need for a synthesis of this topic at this time?
- What sources of information are available to support a synthesis? Seminal publications and other highly referenced scientific papers should be part of the collection of information.
- Is there a sufficient body of science to warrant the need for a synthesis of this topic at this time?

**3. Interaction with land managers**

Please describe activities you would conduct to solicit manager's input to help refine the scope of your work, to help identify and describe management implications, and to share the outcome of your assessment. Consider the use of a management advisor to strengthen the link to land managers.

**4. General outline**

Please list the major section headings you anticipate using in your manuscript.

**5. Schedule**

Please list the dates for major phases or milestones of your work.

**6. Deliverables**

Please list the products you plan to produce. Multimedia DVDs are encouraged.

**7. Budget**

The JFSP Governing Board does not fund projects that are, or should be, funded internally from existing accounts (such as routine agency monitoring) or operational portions (such as the installation of fuels treatments or development of fire management plans) of other projects.

Applicants should ensure that an appropriate Federal Fiscal Representative (see definition Section VI), as well as budget, or grants and contract offices of non-federal cooperators, review the proposal prior to submission to ensure the budget and other fiscal aspects of the proposal meet agency requirements.

The Federal Fiscal Representative, or other point of contact as delegated by the sponsoring agency, will be responsible for receiving funding if the proposal is funded. When submitting a proposal the Principal Investigator certifies that the Federal Fiscal Representative has reviewed the proposal and is prepared to receive funds from JFSP if the proposal is funded, and that the receiving agency is prepared to execute sub-agreements or contracts as warranted.

Federal agencies, and entities receiving sub-awards, must be prepared to provide a current and active Dun and Bradstreet Number (DUNS) to the grants and agreements/contracting staff if the proposal is selected for funding.

**Indirect Costs**

The JFSP Governing Board recognizes the need of agencies and organizations participating in the program to recover reasonable indirect costs. However, cost

effectiveness of the individual projects is a determining factor in the final selection process. The JFSP is limited within its approved policy regarding the amount of the indirect cost rate that will be approved. The maximum indirect rate is twenty (20) percent of that portion of the cost attributable to project performance. The maximum indirect rate that a federal agency may charge for flow-through/pass-through indirect costs is ten (10) percent. The Governing Board expects proposals to include only reasonable and justifiable indirect costs.

### **SBIR Costs**

Certain proposals may be required to pay a percentage of the project's costs into the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. Proposals where the funds are transferred to a Forest Service Federal Cooperator and subsequently award a portion of the total budget to a non-federal entity through a sub-agreement or sub-contract may be required to pay 2.5% of the total funds awarded externally to the SBIR program. Check with your Federal Fiscal Representative to determine if this applies to your proposal.

### **Salary Policy**

Normally, salaries of permanent full-time federal employees are expected to be provided by their agencies. This is also true of university faculty on 12-month tenure-track appointments. These employees are already fully funded by their institutions. However, the Governing Board recognizes there can be unique situations where the Governing Board may agree to fund the salary of permanent employees.

A detailed justification for funding the salary of permanent employees must be included in the proposal to be considered for funding. The justification should indicate all sources of funding, including other pending projects and associated FTE for the permanent position for which salary funding is requested. The justification must be by the supervisor of the individual requesting salary.

You must use the format found in Attachment 2 for the certification. In addition, permanent employee salary costs must be explicitly identified in the project budget. The Governing Board requires no special justification (other than a brief description of the need for the position in the budget justification section of the proposal) for funding temporary or term employees, post-doctoral employees, graduate, or undergraduate students. Stipends are normally funded, but tuition fees are not.

## **D. Proposal Application Requirements**

Proposals must meet all of the following requirements to be considered. Incomplete proposals will not be considered. There will be no exceptions to either the submission deadline or other submission requirements. If you have questions about these requirements, please contact the JFSP Program Office for clarification (Becky Jenison, 208.387.5958; John Cissel, 208.387.5349).

**1. Proposal Submission** – Proposal must be submitted electronically via the JFSP website ([www.firescience.gov](http://www.firescience.gov)). Proposals should not be submitted in Grants.gov. Hard copy or facsimile proposals will not be accepted.

- Proposers must have a login and password to access the database to submit a proposal. Requests for access will be processed in approximately 24 hours.
- Only the PI can submit the proposal.

- Proposals can be saved in the JFSP system and submitted at a later date prior to the closing date and time. Submitted proposals can be reverted back to final draft by the PI prior to the closing date. If you revert a proposal back to draft you must resubmit the proposal before the closing date and time.
- The system will not allow proposals to be submitted after the closing date and time.

**2. Contacts** – Proposals must have the following contacts (see above, “Definitions”) assigned to a proposal to be submitted:

- Principal Investigator (only one Principal Investigator can be assigned)
- Federal Cooperator – This can be the PI if they are a federal employee, if this is the case you must assign yourself to both roles in the system (only one federal cooperator can be assigned).
- Federal Fiscal Representative (only one federal fiscal representative can be assigned)
  - Federal Fiscal Representative must be willing to facilitate the receipt of funds and execution of sub-agreements if your proposal is funded.
- All contacts must be entered on the “Contacts tab” in the system by the Principal Investigator. Contacts must be registered and have a profile in the system to be added as a contact. If you have registered in the past you will still be in the system. New contacts may take up to 24 hours for a profile to be created.
- It is the responsibility of the individual contacts to ensure that the contact information in the JFSP electronic submission system is correct including affiliation, e-mail, phone number and address.
- Co-PIs and collaborators are not required on a proposal; however, if they are involved with a proposal they must be entered on the contacts tab.

**3. Confirmation Page** – When you submit your proposal you will receive a confirmation page. We highly recommend that you save or print this page for your records. You should receive an e-mail from the JFSP Program Office letting you know that your proposal has either been forwarded for review, or rejected for not meeting administrative requirements. If you do not receive this e-mail within 30 days you should fax or e-mail your confirmation to Becky Jenison at [Becky\\_Jenison@blm.gov](mailto:Becky_Jenison@blm.gov) or Fax: 208-387-5960 as soon as possible.

**4. Attachments** – All required documents must be attached before the proposal is submitted. Attachments over the page limit cannot be submitted. Extra graphs and text are not permitted and will not be reviewed

**Required attachments:**

- Attachment 1:  
The body of the text
- Attachment 2:  
Budget Detail (**NOTE**: Full budget detail now required for each institution requesting funding)  
C.V.s of the PI (2 page maximum) and co-PIs (1 page maximum)  
Letter(s) of support (optional)  
Salary justification (may be required, see below)

**5. Task Statement** – Proposals that do not clearly and directly meet the intent of the task statement selected will not be considered for funding. Please make sure you are submitting your proposal to the correct task statement in the system.

**6. Format** – Proposals not following the required template will not be considered. Proposals must use an 11 point font or larger. Additional guidance is in the "Format Overview" section.

**7. Page Limits** – Proposals (Attachment 1) exceeding the page limit (4 pages) cannot be submitted.

**8. Project Location** - Project location fields must be completed on the Location tab for a proposal to be successfully submitted. Instructions are listed on the project location tab.

**9. Title Page** – There is no longer a title page for proposals. Information formerly included on our title page must be submitted in the electronic proposal database on the “Details” and “Contacts” tabs.

**10. Signatures** – Handwritten signatures are no longer required. When Principal Investigators (PIs) submit proposals they will be prompted to input their password. By typing in the password PIs certify that “the Federal Cooperator and Co-PIs have reviewed the proposal and have agreed to participate in this role. I am also certifying that the Federal Fiscal Representative has reviewed the budget and is prepared to receive funds from JFSP if the proposal is funded, and the receiving agency is prepared to execute sub-agreements or contracts as warranted.”

**11. Indirect Costs** – JFSP will not consider proposals asking for more than 20% indirect costs and/or more than 10% pass-through costs.

**12. In-kind Contributions** – JFSP does not have a standard ratio or minimum requirement for in-kind contributions. However, in-kind contributions are an evaluation factor.

**13. Support Letters** – Support letters are encouraged, but not required. If submitted, they must be attached as part of Attachment 2. Support letters sent by hard copy or email directly to JFSP will not be considered.

**14. Salary Justifications** - Salary justifications are only required if the proposal is requesting funds for salary of permanent or tenured employees for a portion of the year normally covered by permanent or tenured funding. If required, salary justifications must contain all of the requested information and be signed electronically by the supervisor of the individual requesting salary coverage. Salary justifications must be attached as part of Attachment 2.

**15. Past-due Projects** – No proposals will be considered if the work will be implemented by a PI or Co-PI who is a PI or Co-PI on a JFSP project that is past due as of the closing date of this announcement. See the JFSP website for the complete JFSP past due and extension request policy.

## **SECTION V. APPLICATION REVIEW and EVALUATION INFORMATION**

## A. Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be considered using the following criteria:

### Proposals will be reviewed for:

1. Relevancy
2. Products, Delivery and Science Application

#### Relevancy -

- Importance of the proposal to land managers.
- Does the proposal directly address the RFA and task statement?
- Is the topic timely for a synthesis? Is there a sufficient body of science to warrant the need for a synthesis of this topic at this time?

#### Products, Deliverables and Science Application:

- Are the products useful for land managers?
- How will the product be delivered?

## SECTION VI. DEFINITIONS

**Request for Applications (RFA):** Joint Fire Science Program method of requesting project proposals. The RFA includes task statements for which proposals are sought, instructions for proposal submission, and related information.

**Federal Fiscal Representative:** Employee of the federal agency sponsoring a proposed project that will be responsible for the review and approval of the project's budget and is willing to facilitate the receipt of funds and execution of sub-agreements if a proposal is funded. The Federal Fiscal Representative is typically a Grants and Agreements Specialist, Contracting Officer, Budget Analyst or Administrative Officer.

**Principal Investigator (PI):** The individual identified in a proposal who is the research lead for the project. This individual is responsible for coordinating all research related activities and will be the primary science contact for the project. The PI is responsible for communicating and coordinating with Co-PIs and others on the research team.

**Co-Principal Investigator (Co-PI):** The individual(s) identified in a proposal who works with the research lead on the project and makes a substantial contribution to the project. The Co-PI is responsible for communicating and coordinating with the PI.

**Federal Cooperator:** This individual must be a federal employee and is responsible for coordinating with the PI (if the PI is other than her/himself), and the grants and agreements and budget/finance staff on administrative activities for this project. The Federal Cooperator will be one of the primary contacts for the project and should stay informed and involved in project activities.

**Indirect Costs:** Those costs that are a percentage of the total cost used to pay for overhead/administrative costs attributable to a specific research project. Examples include the cost of operations and maintenance such as janitorial, phone, and clerical services. The Joint Fire Science Program recognizes two types of indirect costs: 1) "in-house" costs incurred by the agency, institution, or unit completing the research; and 2) "pass-through" costs associated with sub-awarding project funds to another agency, institution, or entity for the purpose of completing research or science delivery.

**Joint Fire Science Program Governing Board:** An appointed, 10-person Board representing the

JFSP partnering agencies. The Board provides strategic direction and oversight to JFSP, identifies important research questions, selects proposals for funding, supervises the JFSP Program Manager, and conducts related business.

**Science Delivery and Application:** The transfer of information, materials, models and other research deliverables to end users, along with adequate information and training to apply the deliverables. Examples of active methods include workshops, training sessions, guided field tours, conferences, meetings, and symposia. Examples of passive methods include published papers and websites. A combination of active and passive methods is preferred.

**Task Statement:** A specific area of interest, identified in the RFA, for which proposed project applications are sought.

## SECTION VII. ATTACHMENTS

### ATTACHMENT 1 – PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Proposals must use the following template to be considered

You must use at least 11 point font

#### I. Methods

Briefly describe your approach to conducting this synthesis.

#### II. Data sources

What sources of information are available to support a synthesis? Seminal publications and other highly referenced scientific papers should be part of the collection of information.

#### III. Interaction with land managers

Please describe activities you would conduct to solicit manager’s input to help refine the scope of your work, to help identify and describe management implications, and to share the outcome of your assessment. Consider the use of a management advisor to strengthen the link to land managers.

#### IV. General outline

Please list the major section headings you anticipate using in your manuscript.

#### V. Schedule

Please list the dates for major phases or milestones of your work.

#### VI. Deliverables

Please list the products you plan to produce. Multimedia DVDs are encouraged.

#### VII. Budget

Proposal Budget Summary:

Budget Item	20xx		TOTAL
	Requested	Contributed	
Labor:			
Travel:			
Materials and Supplies:			
Publishing costs			
Other			
Total Direct Costs			
Indirect Costs: XX% - all costs			
Total Contributed Funding all years		xxxxxxx	xxxxxxx
Total Requested Funding all years	xxxxxx		xxxxxxx

#### NOTES:

- Please keep your response to the above topics brief

- The JFSP Program Office must review and comment on a complete draft of your manuscript prior to submission for publication.
- In addition to an acknowledgement in the manuscript for funding support the JFSP may want to include design elements in the cover of your publication that identifies it as a JFSP synthesis product. This can be negotiated depending on the needs of your publisher.
- While there is no specified template for writing synthesis documents, authors must write for the management community. Photographs supporting the text are strongly encouraged.
- Including using science writer and/or editorial support staff in your proposal is strongly encouraged.

# ATTACHEMENT 2 – BUDGET DETAIL

Please provide a total budget detail for the proposal and a separate budget detail for each institution requesting funding

Table x. Total Budget Detail for proposal FYs 20xx, 20yy, and 20zz

Budget Item	20xx		20yy		20zz		TOTAL
	Requested	Contributed	Requested	Contributed	Requested	Contributed	
Labor: Subtotal institution xxx							
Labor: Subtotal institution xxx							
Labor: Subtotal institution xxx							
<b>TOTAL LABOR</b>							
Travel expenses: Subtotal institution xxx							
Travel expenses: Subtotal institution xxx							
<b>TOTAL TRAVEL</b>							
Capitalized Equipment: Subtotal institution xxx							
Capitalized Equipment: Subtotal institution xxx							
<b>TOTAL EQUIPMENT</b>							
Materials and Supplies: Subtotal institution xxx							
Materials and Supplies: Subtotal institution xxx							
<b>TOTAL MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES</b>							
Science Delivery and Application: Subtotal institution xxx							
Science Delivery and Application: Subtotal institution xxx							
<b>TOTAL SCIENCE DELIVERY</b>							
Other: Subtotal institution xxx							
<b>TOTAL OTHER</b>							
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>							
Indirect Costs: Subtotal institution xxx							
Indirect Costs: Subtotal institution xxx							
<b>TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS</b>							
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING</b>	xxxxxx		xxxxxxxx		xxxxxxxx		xxxxxxxx
<b>Total contributed funding all years</b>		xxxxxx		xxxxxx		xxxxxx	xxxxxx

Table x. Budget Detail for XXX institute (provide a separate budget detail for each institution requesting funding) FYs 20xx, 20yy, and 20zz

Budget Item	20xx		20yy		20zz		TOTAL
	Requested	Contributed	Requested	Contributed	Requested	Contributed	
<b>Labor:</b> \$xx/week @ xx weeks for FY xx, yy, and zz)							
<b>Labor:</b> \$xx/week @ xx weeks for FY xx, yy, and zz)							
<b>Labor:</b> \$xx/week @ xx weeks for FY xx, yy, and zz)							
<b>LABOR SUBTOTAL</b>							
<b>Travel expenses (i.e., meals, lodging, etc.):</b> - Field/Site visits - Conferences/Meetings - Other							
<b>TRAVEL SUBTOTAL</b>							
<b>Capitalized Equipment:</b> - Computers - software - other (itemize)							
<b>EQUIPMENT SUBTOTAL</b>							
<b>Materials and Supplies:</b> - Itemize							
<b>MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES SUBTOTAL</b>							
<b>Science Delivery and Application:</b> - Itemize							
<b>SCIENCE DELIVERY SUBTOTAL</b>							
<b>Other</b> - Itemize							
<b>OTHER SUBTOTAL</b>							
<b>TOTAL DIRECT COSTS</b>							
<b>Indirect costs attributable to project :</b> XX% - of total direct costs (if applicable)							
<b>Pass-through indirect costs: YY% - of total direct costs **</b> (Federal Cooperator only)							
<b>TOTAL INDIRECT COSTS</b>							
<b>TOTAL REQUESTED FUNDING</b>	xxxxx		xxxxxxx		xxxxxxx		xxxxxxx
<b>Total contributed funding all years</b>		xxxxx		xxxxx		xxxxx	xxxxx

**\*\* Include pass-through costs assessed for all cooperating institutions.**

# ATTACHMENT 2 – SALARY JUSTIFICATION

## Certification to the Joint Fire Science Program Justification of Need for Salary Support

I hereby certify the attached Justification of Need to provide temporary salaries for full-time permanent employee (s) \_\_\_\_\_ (*list name of employee(s)*) is necessary and appropriate to enable him/her (them) to fully and directly participate in the proposed project.

Justification:

I understand that salary funding for this/these employee(s) directly involved in the proposed project is temporary and will not be provided beyond the duration of the proposed project.

Signature /s/ \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

# **ATTACHMENT 2 – CURRICULUM VITAE**

# **ATTACHMENT 2 – LETTERS OF SUPPORT**

**-- END OF PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT --**