

April 16, 2020

Dear Partners,

As you are well aware, we are in unprecedented times. As the Coronavirus pandemic continues to impact communities across the country and around the world, our thoughts are with our community members, healthcare professionals, and others affected during this challenging time.

We realize that the current national health crisis will likely affect everyone at your organization, and potentially impact its ability to implement some or all of the work proposed in the grant your organization has with the NFF.

As partners in stewardship, the NFF will work with your organization to accommodate public health related adjustments to project scope, budget, or timing to the fullest extent possible to allow your organization to implement your work while fully adhering to applicable local, state, and federal public health requirements. As you work towards project implementation please also keep in close contact with your contacts at the U.S. Forest Service to ensure that there are no additional restrictions applicable to the planned work.

Regardless of the type of implementation challenges your organization faces, please communicate about obstacles early and often to help maximize the accommodations we can offer.

For competitive grants, please contact NFF Conservation Awards staff at grants@nationalforests.org to discuss imminent implementation challenges your organization is facing. In most circumstances the NFF can offer timeline extensions, approve changes to project scope, and/or approve budget adjustments. Should your organization need any consideration, you can find information about requesting project modifications at <https://www.nationalforests.org/grant-programs/resources>.

If your organization also has an invited grant with the NFF, please initially coordinate with your local project contact about adjustments to that project.

There may be some circumstances when projects simply cannot be implemented due to Forest Service and public health restrictions, timing, and/or other considerations related to the pandemic. Deciding to cancel or postpone activities can be a difficult decision, but we know the health of our nation is much more critical. We will stand behind the hard decisions that organizations make to not implement work due to the impacts of the pandemic.

We will not know the human and economic impact of this global pandemic for quite some time. Facing this significant challenge makes us even more committed to supporting the health of our National Forests and communities.

Thank you for your continued support of our National Forests and Grasslands. Please stay well.

Adam Liljebld
Director, Conservation Awards