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The Federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO #1) solicits proposals to access funding from two IRA provisions that:

- Support the participation of underserved forest landowners in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience (IRA Section 23002, Provision 2).
- Support the participation of forest landowners who own less than 2,500 acres of forest land in emerging private markets for climate mitigation or forest resilience (IRA Section 23002, Provision 3).

The Washington Farm Forestry Association (WFFA), a 501 c(5) non-profit organization serving small forest landowners for over 70 years, plans to submit a proposal aimed at addressing both climate mitigation and forest resilience through the development of activities and market penetration for biochar created from forest residues, non-commercial forest thinning residues, and fire hazard reduction treatments. This proposal builds from the work WFFA and cooperators are doing under Section 21 of [Washington's Climate Commitment Act](#) that established a small forest landowner carbon workgroup (CWG) to *"Develop a framework and funding proposals for establishing a program to link interested small forestland owners with incentive-based carbon reducing programs that facilitate adoption of forest practices that increase carbon storage and sequestration in forests and wood products."* and to *"Recommend policies to support the implementation of incentives for participation in carbon markets."*

The CWG effort has shown that there are ample opportunities for small forest landowners to improve carbon outcomes on their forests through improved forest management treatments that increase both forest resilience and productivity. Biochar production from forest residues can meet both these objectives, but markets are currently not well developed. This effort will provide access to tools for small forest landowners to produce biochar in-situ for improved forest productivity which could be eligible for carbon market credits. It will also build on efforts by partners to demonstrate the carbon and climate benefits of small-scale commercial biochar production as an emerging direct payment market opportunity.

We are looking for letters of support from regional outreach and extension partners that are connected to the broader small forest landowner community. There are also opportunities to partner with us on this grant proposal. The grant deadline for NOFO #1 proposals is October 21, 2023, so the window of opportunity is short. Please direct inquiries and letters of support to Dr. Elaine Oneil, Executive Director of WFFA at eonil@wafarmforestry.com or 360-388-8033 (cell). Thank you for supporting us in bringing this remarkable opportunity to the small forest landowners of Washington State.