

## Twelve Big Ideas for 2012 Call for Papers Frequently Asked Questions

Recently, a group of business, academic, political and policy leaders formed an advisory committee to initiate a dialog about conservation programs, practices and policies centered on conservative and libertarian philosophic perspectives.

The strategic objective is to identify and foster an audience of creative people and organizations to write a series of papers about solutions to conservation problems rooted in values such as fiscal discipline, limited government, market entrepreneurship, and personal accountability. These “grantees” will include academics, experts and organizations that have studied or are practicing innovative conservation programs.

### Sponsor

**Q: Who is sponsoring this endeavor?**

**A:** The 12 for 2012 Advisory Committee is self-sponsored. However, the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) has agreed to serve as the financial and administrative catalyst for the effort. The effort is independent of EDF’s policy and advocacy efforts. The Meridian Institute has been tapped to coordinate the activities of the committee, execute the RFP and facilitate the scheduled meetings so that the committee members can operate autonomously.

**Q: Who are the members of the group, and why were they selected?**

**A:** The committee consists of former cabinet secretaries, top military commanders, groundbreaking thinkers in conservation policy, innovative former state and local officials and business visionaries. The committee includes (partial list):

- Gale Norton, former Secretary of the Interior and former Colorado Attorney General
- Ed Schafer, former governor of North Dakota, and former Secretary of Agriculture
- Richard Natonski, Lieutenant General U.S. Marine Corps (Retired)
- Lowell Baier, President Emeritus of the Boone and Crockett Club

### Submissions and Deadlines

**Q: Where can I direct interested writers to learn more about this program?**

**A:** Anyone interested in submitting an abstract should request the RFP by contacting Shelly Foston, Mediator and Program Manager with the Meridian Institute either by phone at 240-638-6372 or by email at [sfoston@merid.org](mailto:sfoston@merid.org). Once the web-site is operational we will notify committee members and others.

**Q: Who is eligible to submit an abstract?**

**A:** Anyone from an institution of higher learning and individuals with practical, direct and relevant experience as defined in the Call for Papers. (Note: Advisory Committee members are encouraged to seek out writers to submit papers for consideration.)

**Q: When are abstracts due for review?**

**A:** The first set of paper abstracts must be submitted by email to [12for12@projects.merid.org](mailto:12for12@projects.merid.org) by **May 9th, 2012**. Selected authors will be expected to submit final papers by August 31st, 2012. We will begin accepting abstracts for consideration as soon as the RFP is finalized and distributed, likely Thursday, April 19th, 2012.

For more information, we encourage interested parties to contact Shelly Foston, Mediator and Program Manager with the Meridian Institute either by phone at 240-638-6372 or by email at [sfoston@merid.org](mailto:sfoston@merid.org).

**Q: Will the finished “papers” be released for public comment?**

**A:** Each grantee will be required to meet certain deadlines. If they choose to publically share their preliminary submissions, they may do so. Release of papers will be done on a rolling basis. We expect the first tranche of papers to be released in late summer with a full compilation ready in late 2012.

**Review Process****Q: How would someone submit an abstract to be considered?**

**A:** Proposals should be submitted to [12for12@projects.merid.org](mailto:12for12@projects.merid.org) by May 9, 2012. The submissions should include a one- to two- page abstract and a CV or resume.

For more information, we encourage interested parties to contact Shelly Foston, Mediator and Program Manager with the Meridian Institute either by phone at 240-638-6372 or by email at [sfoston@merid.org](mailto:sfoston@merid.org).

Meridian Institute will share the abstracts with a small selection committee made up of the Advisory Committee members and organizing partners. The abstracts will be used purely for identification of the finalists.

**Q: Who will be reviewing abstract submissions and selecting the finalists?**

**A:** Meridian Institute is responsible for gathering and organizing the submissions for review by the Advisory Committee, staff, and others as requested by the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee and managing editor will be the final arbiter of what papers will be accepted. Naturally we want a broad pool of candidates so we may ask other organizations to assist in the review and analysis of the abstracts.

**Q: How many submissions do you expect to consider?**

**A:** We are already experiencing a significant level of interest from individuals and organizations and expect many abstracts to be submitted by the May 9th deadline.

### Grantees

**Q: Are those selected to prepare a submission being remunerated?**

**A:** As part of the RFP process we are offering grants of up to \$5,000 to the authors of selected abstracts. The amount of each grant is dependent upon the applicant's experience, level of detail proposed to consider, and relevance to the Committee's overall objective. The range of compensation will be commensurate to these and other guidelines.

*If asked who is funding the grants:* The grants will be funded by EDF and administered by Meridian. The Advisory Committee, in consultation with its support staff, will determine the amount of each grant.

### Meetings

**Q: When are meetings of the Advisory Committee scheduled, and where are they to be held?**

**A:** There will two half- day meetings of the Committee during the first six months of the project. The first is scheduled for May 15th and will be held in Washington DC at the Meridian Institute. The second is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 10th, the location has not yet been determined.

**Q: Are the meetings open to the public?**

**A:** No. However, as the Advisory Committee has an announcement or relevant information to share, that information will be made publically available.

### Staff Support

**Q: In addition to EDF and Meridian, who else can we draw upon to respond to questions?**

**A:** Lynn Scarlett ([lynnscarlett@comcast.net](mailto:lynnscarlett@comcast.net)), Jonathan Thompson ([jt@referocommunications.com](mailto:jt@referocommunications.com)) and Mark Pfeifle ([mpfeifle@s4inc.com](mailto:mpfeifle@s4inc.com)) are actively supporting this endeavor and have been involved from the start of this effort. Lynn will be serving as the final editor and content manager; Mark and Jonathan have been a part of this effort from its inception and will be our lead communications strategists. All of them can be reached via email and can also share what plans we have to promote, support and broaden awareness of this endeavor.

John Ehrmann ([jehrmann@merid.org](mailto:jehrmann@merid.org)), Shelly Foston ([sfoston@merid.org](mailto:sfoston@merid.org)), and Shawn Walker ([shawnwalker@merid.org](mailto:shawnwalker@merid.org)) of the Meridian Institute are helping to design and facilitate the overall process and the Advisory Committee meetings.

### Why 12 for 2012

**Q: Aren't there plenty of Washington-based policy organizations that already do this and why now?**

**A:** 12 for 12 is not a Washington based policy organization. It is rooted in the perspective of what is happening outside Washington, actually working in the marketplace, or being considered at the local and state level in solving some of our most pressing conservation problems. We believe there are many experts practicing innovative conservation programs right now. We want to identify those people and programs and measure the ability to scale their efforts to larger or broader efforts around the country. This is an attempt to look outside Washington for practical solutions to everyday problems and needs.

**Q: What is the EDF hoping to achieve from starting this effort?**

**A:** As a member of the Advisory Committee, I believe that workable and market-oriented solutions to maintaining and conserving our nation's resources must be identified. EDF shares the belief that a new set of ideas needs to be identified and discussed. EDF is excited to be supporting this Committee's work and facilitating its members' efforts to help build a reasoned and lasting dialog and narrative. EDF has helped to assemble a Committee with members who are well respected, knowledgeable, and widely regarded in this (or their fields). The Committee members and staff of this initiative and their very deep and wide networks of colleagues share the view that the time is ripe for a new level of discourse in/around the conservative movements and conservation at large.