

Call for Papers

Big, New Ideas to Conserve America's Resources

"Twelve Big Ideas for 2012" or "12 for 12" is part of a new initiative that aims to re-establish the market-based intellectual case for conservation by exploring innovative initiatives and ideas that can effectively address our most pressing environmental challenges. The initiative, including this call for papers, is guided by a distinguished Advisory Committee made up of former government officials, public policy experts, leaders in the agricultural community, and business visionaries. A partial list of Advisory Committee members can be found at the end of this call for papers.

The initiative seeks conservation policies and ideas, rooted in conservative and libertarian values, which protect and steward America's natural resources while sustaining prosperity and national security. As part of 12 for 12, the Advisory Committee will approve grants to more than a dozen academics and fellows to develop promising conservation policy ideas rooted in values such as fiscal discipline, limited government, market entrepreneurship, and personal accountability.

Interested authors should submit a one- to two-page abstract that identifies an environmental challenge and outlines their proposal for addressing that challenge, along with a brief CV or resume. The abstract should provide sufficient detail for reviewers to assess the nature and feasibility of their idea. Finalists will be selected in late May 2012 for grant funding of up to \$5,000 and potential inclusion in a compilation that will be endorsed by the Advisory Committee, published online, and promoted in the media. Proposals must be emailed to 12for12@projects.merid.org by **Wednesday, May 9, 2012**. Selected authors will be expected to submit final papers by August 31, 2012.

Submissions must:

- Embody principles such as but not limited to: fiscal discipline, limited government, market entrepreneurship, and personal accountability;
- Be feasible to implement, locally or nationally; and
- Outline solutions that would deliver positive environmental and/or conservation outcomes compared to business as usual.

The Advisory Committee will also consider papers addressing broader themes, i.e., intellectual arguments that advance conservation goals without a specific policy focus. Submissions may address prospective environmental challenges or they may describe how historical successes can be replicated.

The Advisory Committee is particularly interested in initiatives and ideas related to:

1. Water security –potential approaches to water quality and water quantity challenges in major watersheds that are critical to the economic well-being of their regions and the country.
2. Food security – environmentally and economically beneficial approaches to managing and protecting the natural resources that support our nation's terrestrial and marine food supplies.
3. Energy security – new policies that can help spur domestic energy production while minimizing pollution impacts and America's dependence on foreign oil.
4. Habitat conservation – policies that enhance personal stewardship of the Earth and its creatures through innovative, market-based approaches to conservation under the Endangered Species Act and other policies.
5. Local engagement – policies and governance approaches that maximize local, community, and state responsibility and minimize the need for federal spending.

Proposals due on Wednesday, May 9, 2012 by email to 12for12@projects.merid.org

Advisory Committee Members

Partial List

Lowell Baier: Attorney, author and President Emeritus of the Boone and Crockett Club

Floyd DesChamps: Senior Vice President for Research and Policy, Alliance to Save Energy; former Senior Advisor to Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and former U.S. Department of Energy staffer

Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky: adjunct Senior Fellow, Harvard University's JFK Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and former Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs and Head of Delegation to the UNFCCC (2001-2008)

Mary Gade: President, Gade Environmental Group LLC and former Region 5 EPA Administrator and former Director, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

Coddy Johnson: Chief Operating Officer, Activision Studios; former Associate Director, White House Office of Political Affairs; and former National Field Director, 2004 Bush-Cheney Re-elect

Kevin Kolevar: Vice President, International Government Affairs and Public Policy, Dow Chemical and former Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, U.S. Department of Energy

Richard Natonski: Lieutenant General U.S. Marine Corps (Retired); former Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Command; and former Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies and Operations

Gale Norton: President, Norton Regulatory Strategies; former U.S. Secretary of the Interior; and former Colorado Attorney General

Kameran Onley: Director, U.S. Marine Policy, The Nature Conservancy; former Associate Director for Environmental Policy, White House Council on Environmental Quality; and former Acting Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, U.S. Department of the Interior

Ed Schafer: Former Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture and former Governor of North Dakota

Lynne Sherrod: Rancher, Western Region, Land Trust Alliance; formerly with Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust

John Tomke: Chairman, Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council; Board of Directors, National Fish and Wildlife Association; former President, Ducks Unlimited; and former Vice President, Global operations, Dow AgroSciences

Bob Young: President and Chief Executive Officer, Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy and former Mayor of Augusta, Georgia