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Date: September 23, 2011

TO: Northeastern Area State Foresters

**Fiscal Year 2012 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry  
Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals**

**PROPOSALS DUE COB December 15, 2011**

The Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry (NA S&PF) and the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) are committed to supporting the priorities described in State Forest Action Plans in the most efficient and cost-effective way. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals (RFP) process provides opportunities to integrate programs when allocating funds to partners and improves operational efficiencies by reducing duplicated submission procedures. This RFP will focus Federal investments on priority issues, challenges, opportunities, and threats of national, regional, and State importance. State Forest Action Plans will be used to identify project priorities and meaningful outcomes.

**Available Funding**

The FY2012 Competitive Allocation RFP incorporates three previously separate RFP processes. The funding authorities include Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Fire (State Fire Assistance and State Fire Assistance National Fire Plan), and Forest Health. There are three project categories for this RFP:

1. **National State and Private Forestry Competitive Resource Allocation (“Redesign Grants”)**—Focus on urban and community forestry, forest stewardship, and integrated forest fire hazard mitigation or forest health issues or concerns excluded from the opportunities under the Forest Health Management and Treatments category.
2. **Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation**—Focus on hazardous wildland fuel treatments and community/homeowner education and activities that reduce wildfire risk.
3. **Forest Health Management and Treatments**—Focus on the damage-causing agents listed in appendix A, which is located at: <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>.

Both large and small projects will be considered and funded. There is no limit on the number of proposals (single or multistate) any one State can submit. **However, proposals may be submitted under one and only one RFP category.** The minimum project proposal amount in Federal funding for the “Redesign Grants” is \$25,000; however, there is no minimum for forest fire hazard mitigation or forest health management and treatment proposals. The maximum amount of Federal funding that will be awarded to any one State via this competitive process is 15 percent of the total available funding for each RFP category.



Multistate or third-party proposals must identify the share of the proposal that will be charged to each State's cap. Funding available for this RFP does not include, nor does it affect, core program funding. Proposals will be funded to the extent possible once the final Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry FY2012 budget is received.

### **Eligibility**

In FY2012, State Forestry agencies and the District of Columbia are eligible to submit or authorize proposals (pass-through direct to partners) for consideration under this competition. Nonprofit organizations, universities, and other partners must submit proposals through the State Forester. State Foresters will collaborate with State Agriculture agencies or other organizations with State Forest Health program responsibilities who can submit proposals through the State Forester or directly with a letter of concurrence from the State Forester.

Additional information:

- Where appropriate, States are encouraged to develop multistate projects in collaboration with other State Forestry agencies and partners.
- S&PF funds available through this RFP are only to be spent on projects conducted on non-Federal lands.
- Projects proposed through this process may extend or expand upon other work supported by Federal funds; however, activities and accomplishments must be tracked and reported separately.
- Projects may span up to 3 years, with full funding committed at the time of award.
- Funds to be passed through to third-party recipients must be clearly identified with the name of the organization, contact information, and funding amount. Third-party pass-through funding amounts will count towards a State's total allocation.
- Any project that includes forest health suppression, restoration, or eradication activities may not be included under a consolidated grant.

### **Excluded from Consideration under this RFP**

- Gypsy moth suppression, eradication, and Slow the Spread (STS). These are determined by cooperative surveys or other efforts in cooperation with the STS Foundation.
- National and cross-regional initiatives such as oak wilt control, Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR), Evaluation Monitoring (EM), Forest Service-Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (FSPIAP), and Special Technology Development Projects (STDP). These are run through a separate national process.
- Forest Health methods (applied technology development). These will be solicited separately, funded primarily with State and Private Federal lands Forest Health funds (SPFH).
- Purchase of fire department equipment, including fire weather stations.
- Purchase and installation of dry fire hydrants.
- Small business start-up funding.
- Research and development projects.
- Capital improvements (i.e. facilities).
- Fire preparedness and suppression capacity building.

### **Proposal Requirements for All Requests**

FY2012 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation RFP applications will proceed for ranking only if they meet the required elements below:

#### **A. Link to State Forest Action Plans, national and regional priorities.**

In 2010, each State and the District of Columbia completed a State Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy (now referred to as a Forest Action Plan). These documents outline priority issues and landscapes within each State and are available at <http://www.forestactionplans.org/>. Project goals must address and be clearly linked to resource objectives and/or priorities in the State Forest Action Plan by referencing the State Plan page, section, or strategy number(s). For multistate projects, the proposal must link to the Forest Action Plan of each State involved.

Project goals should be clearly linked to the objectives of one or more of the National State and Private Forestry Priorities: 1) conserve and manage working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses, 2) protect forests from threats, and 3) enhance public benefits from trees and forests. Project goals should also be linked to other national or regional priority objectives, as relevant, such as the USDA Forest Service Strategic Plan (2007-2012), National Roadmap for Responding to Climate Change, NA Strategic Plan Update for 2008-2012, NAASF Strategic Plan, Landscape Scale Conservation in the Northeast and Midwest (12/16/09), and other relevant national or regional planning documents. These documents are available for reference at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp>.

#### **B. Required matching funds (50/50 minimum).**

The match must be met by eligible and allowable costs and is subject to match provisions in grant regulations (see Subpart G at [http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title07/7cfr3015\\_main\\_02.tpl](http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/text-idx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title07/7cfr3015_main_02.tpl)).

#### **C. Appropriate and authorized use of Federal funds.**

It is recommended that applicants review *The Principal Laws Relating to USDA Forest Service State and Private Forestry Programs*, particularly the sections related to the funding sources for this RFP, which are available at <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/SPF-CF%20handbook.pdf>.

### **Project Submission and Selection**

The FY2012 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation RFP application is available on the NA S&PF Web site at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp>. Please submit proposals in PDF format to the following e-mail inbox: [na-rfp@fs.fed.us](mailto:na-rfp@fs.fed.us), **no later than close of business on December 15, 2011**. Proposals may be submitted under one and only one RFP category. Required information for the proposal should not exceed five (5) pages (excluding budget tables and concurrence letter), with a print font size of 12 preferred.

Note: The proposal submission inbox can accept messages up to 4 MB in size. Multiple messages per proposal may be submitted if necessary. Additional information such as maps, tables, and letters of support may be included in addition to the proposal. For assistance submitting proposals to the inbox, contact Terry James at [trjames@fs.fed.us](mailto:trjames@fs.fed.us) or by calling (610) 557-4107.

Projects will be evaluated collaboratively by NAASF, State Departments of Agriculture (for proposals in RFP Category 3: Forest Health Management and Treatments), and NA S&PF leadership. Applications submitted will be reviewed, evaluated, and prioritized by an interagency review team with a combination of Federal and State representatives. The number of team members will be determined based on workload. A preliminary review of the proposals will be conducted to identify incomplete applications and assign potential funding eligibility based on the project's scope of work.

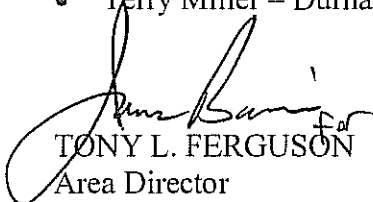
The interagency review team will complete the review of proposals and develop a recommended list of projects by February 10, 2012. The recommended list of proposals will be submitted to the NAASF Executive Committee and NA S&PF Director for approval. The NA S&PF Executive Team will then identify the appropriate mix of program funds and compile the FY2012 grant list with funding sources. Projects ranked but not funded will receive further consideration by the NAASF Executive Committee and the NA S&PF Director should additional funds become available.

### **Additional Resources for Proposal Development**

During proposal development, we encourage applicants to consult with NA S&PF Field Representatives and Field Office staff as well as Cooperative Fire Staff in Newtown Square. They will help develop proposals that are most relevant to the selection criteria given the applicant's objectives and project focus. Past experience has shown that this consultation results in higher quality proposals and more collaboration between similar efforts. In addition, NA S&PF will host a Webinar(s) to explain the RFP process and provide technical assistance related to proposal development.

If there are questions regarding the types of projects or components that can be considered, please contact the appropriate NA S&PF Field Office Representative:

- Barb Tormoehlen – St. Paul, MN, at (651) 649-5276 or [btormoehlen@fs.fed.us](mailto:btormoehlen@fs.fed.us)
- Bob Lueckel – Morgantown, WV, at (304) 285-1540 or [rlueckel@fs.fed.us](mailto:rlueckel@fs.fed.us)
- Terry Miller – Durham, NH, at (603) 868-7694 or [twmiller@fs.fed.us](mailto:twmiller@fs.fed.us)

  
TONY L. FERGUSON  
Area Director

Enclosure

cc: NA Executive Team

**Fiscal Year 2012 Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry  
Competitive Allocation Request for Proposals**

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**Category 1: National State and Private Forestry Competitive Resource Allocation (“Redesign Grants”)**

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“Redesign Grants” are designed to competitively target State and Private Forestry program funds to the highest priority conservation needs within a State. Redesign projects can integrate (mix) program authorities and the funding streams of Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Stewardship, Fire, and Forest Health to meet project objectives.

The delivery of State and Private Forestry programs assumes that our collective efforts are most effective when available resources are focused on issues and landscapes of national importance and are prioritized, using State and regional assessments, on activities that promise meaningful outcomes on the ground. This concept is captured as focus + priority = outcome. **Competitive resource allocation** is an effective means of ensuring that Federal S&PF dollars are invested in projects that meet this standard.

Consistent with the Redesigned Competitive Resource Allocation initiated in Fiscal Year 2008 (FY2008), competitive allocation of funds was codified in Section 8007 of the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110- 246). Section 8007 outlines a process for competitive allocation of funds to State Foresters or equivalent State officials and requires that the Secretary consult with the Forest Resource Coordinating Committee when determining the competitive allocation of funds.

Beginning in FY2008, a percentage of the S&PF allocation was invested in projects selected through a competitive process. This process, informed by the national guidance described below, is administered through a joint effort between the State forestry and U.S. Forest Service leadership in the Northeast, South, and West. Each geographic region (NE, S, and W), based on National Association of State Forester regions, designs its competitive process to address geographically significant issues and landscapes as well as the broad themes (specifically the National S&PF Themes/Priorities identified in the Farm Bill) and direction provided at the national level.

**National FY2012 Allocation Process**

In FY2012, 15 percent of the “net available” S&PF allocation will be designated for the Competitive Resource Allocation process.

- The net available funding will consist of S&PF funds available after earmarks and national commitments are removed.
- The net available will include funds that are traditionally transferred to State Forestry agencies as well as funds that support S&PF capacity in the U.S. Forest Service Regional/Area Offices and the Washington Office. The U.S. Forest Service Regions/Area will engage their State Forester partners in determining any reductions of funds that support Forest Service S&PF capacity.
- For FY2012, the net available will include funds in the following programs: Forest Stewardship, Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands, Forest Health Management-Cooperative Lands (National Fire Plan), State Fire Assistance, and State Fire Assistance (National Fire Plan). The Competitive Resource



Allocation will not include funds from Volunteer Fire Assistance, Forest Legacy, Economic Action, and Federal Lands Forest Health Management programs.

- In conjunction with the distribution of initial budget advice to the U.S. Forest Service Regional/Area Offices, each geographic region will be informed of the amount to be available to them for competitive project allocation based on current distribution formulas.

### **Eligible Activities under the Redesign Request for Proposals**

The Category 1 Redesign RFP is designed to allow applicants to “mix” or integrate State and Private Forestry programs, authorities, and funding to achieve the priorities and strategies described in the State Forest Action Plan. Those projects need to address priority issues and threats, produce measureable results, involve collaboration with partners that result in added value, and maximize S&PF funding by using it to leverage contributions from both Federal and non-Federal entities. Successful projects can contain elements of one or more of the following State and Private Forestry programs: Urban and Community Forestry, Forest Health Management on Cooperative Lands, Forest Health Management as per the National Fire Plan, State Fire Assistance, and State Fire Assistance as per the National Fire Plan.

Examples of eligible projects include these:

- Landscape restoration, including invasive species management using prescribed fire
- Wildland-urban interface projects that combine hazard mitigation, urban community outreach, and invasives management through Stewardship project planning
- Community Wildfire Protection Plan areas, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and other landscape-scale planning areas.
- Holistic planning and implementation to address State Forest Action Plans
- Conservation education efforts that transcend programs and authorities
- Ecosystem services projects
- Strategy outreach efforts to those land managers/owners facing urban sprawl, invasive species, and threats from wildfire
- Integrated efforts to improve management of nonindustrial private forest lands according to the State Forest Action Plan

### **Criteria for “Redesign” Proposal Selection**

- 1. Priority Issues and Threats – Desired Future Condition (25 points):** Projects will be based on an analysis within the State or region that identifies the issue or landscape being addressed as a priority in the State Forest Action Plan. In addition, the State may use Forest Stewardship Spatial Analysis Project assessments and other State or regional assessments and plans, including those completed by other agencies or partners, to help identify priority issues or landscapes. Proposals should:
  - Demonstrate a focus on a significant issue or threat in the jurisdiction to be addressed and how the project will lead to a desired future condition.
  - Clearly articulate the methods employed, timelines, and resources needed to move the applicant to a desired future condition as articulated in the State Forest Action Plan.

2. **Measureable Results and Significant Outcomes (35 points):** Describe how reaching the goals and achievements of the project will effect positive changes. Projects should prioritize funding and other resources toward the achievement of outcomes identified below.

***Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes***

- High-priority forest ecosystems and landscapes are identified and conserved
- Forests are actively and sustainably managed

***Protect Forests from Threats***

- Fire-adapted lands are restored and the risk of wildfire impacts is reduced
- Threats to forest and ecosystem health are identified, managed, and reduced. (Any Forest Health-related proposal containing a treatment component must follow requirements for a project with Treatment components, as described in RFP Category 3: Forest Health Management and Treatments).

***Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests***

- Water quality and quantity are protected and enhanced
- Air quality is improved and energy is conserved
- Communities plan for and reduce their risks from wildfire
- The economic benefits and values of trees and forests are maintained and enhanced
- Wildlife and fish habitat are protected, conserved, and enhanced
- People are connected to trees and forests and engaged in environmental stewardship activities
- Trees and forests are managed and restored to help mitigate and adapt to global climate change

3. **Collaboration (20 points):** Projects should identify partners that have demonstrated a commitment and can add value towards project planning and implementation. Collaboration may be qualitative in nature, and the contribution of the partners may be more important than the number of partners involved in the projects. Projects should:

- Produce results/outcomes at a scale and cost appropriate to the project purpose.
- Produce residual positive benefits (capacity, skills, knowledge, infrastructure, or a replicable approach).
- Include a component of outreach, training, lessons learned, or related opportunities so that implementing the project results in skills and capability that extend beyond the life of the project itself.

4. **Leverage (20 points):** Projects should maximize S&PF funding by using it to leverage contributions from both Federal and non-Federal entities. Project applications need to clearly identify Competitive Resource Allocation requested funds and associated non-Federal contributions, and separately document leveraged contributions. Projects should seek to:

- Maximize return on investment and leverage resources.
- Provide a reasonable balance between administration and technical assistance.
- Use effective approaches to sustainable forest resource conservation, protection, and/or enhancement.
- Improve the delivery of public benefits from forest management by coordinating with complementary State and Federal programs when possible.

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## Category 2: Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation

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The Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation category is designed to protect people and communities from wildfire. It does this by improving wildfire protection and preparedness capabilities, increasing wildfire awareness and education, providing assistance to local fire departments, reestablishing ecosystems after wildfires, reducing excessive fuel accumulations in and around communities, establishing community wildfire protection plans (CWPPs), and developing Firewise programming in communities at risk for wildfire.

Based upon an agreement with the NAASF, the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry limits the amount of funding available for this RFP to 35 percent of the net available of the State Fire Assistance – National Fire Plan SPS2 funding. Over the last 10 years, NA S&PF has been able to award approximately \$40 million of State Fire Assistance (SFA) funding through a competitive grant process to projects that focused on hazard fuels reduction, development of CWPPs, information and education, planning, and homeowner mitigation projects.

To assist and prepare the States within NA S&PF for this additional Hazard Mitigation funding, we are incorporating the “Request for Proposals” for Hazard Mitigation Projects into this combined RFP for FY2012.

Hazard Mitigation funding will be distributed through this competitive grant process, will require a 50/50 cost share, and will be distributed based on the National Fire Plan criteria. Additional criteria to be considered in the development of proposals include these: no more than 25 percent of the project budget can be used for planning purposes, no more than 25 percent of the project budget can be used to hire personnel, and project activities should be focused in high-risk wildland-urban interface (WUI) communities as identified by the State’s Fire Protection Assessment component of its Forest Action Plan. States that may find themselves in a position where they cannot utilize additional Federal funding are encouraged to explore utilizing third-party, non-profit opportunities within their respective State.

Three categories of activities have been identified to ensure that funds are used to mitigate or reduce hazard and risk in the wildland-urban interface.

- 1. Hazardous fuel reduction:** Recipients may facilitate and implement mitigating hazardous fuels treatments in or adjacent to identified fire-prone communities to reduce the threat of wildfire within the community. Fuel reduction and vegetation management projects, including project-level planning emphasizing interagency/multijurisdictional cooperation that has been identified as a means of mitigating wildfire hazards, can be conducted across jurisdictional boundaries, on adjoining private lands, or within the respective communities. This should include all components necessary to plan and implement the project.
- 2. Information and education targeting prevention and mitigation in the wildland-urban Interface:** Homeowners and local government bear much of the responsibility for improving the defensibility of homes in the wildland-urban interface (WUI). States can provide the leadership to coordinate, develop, and distribute WUI educational programs in association with insurance companies, communities, and local government agencies. Informational and educational programs must target prevention and mitigation of loss. Programs should lead to use or establishment of one or more fire program elements such as fire safety codes, development/implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans, implementation of Firewise safety practices, fuel treatments within fire-prone communities, or community planning to define fire-safe structures suited to the local ecosystem.



### **3. Risk reduction and hazard mitigation for homeowners and their communities:**

Creating conditions in and around individual structures that will limit the transmission of fire from wildland to structures is basic to reducing the fire hazard in the interface. This is the responsibility of homeowners and communities. States can facilitate projects that focus on reducing the risk of ignition and loss, developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans, implementing Firewise concepts, and conducting risk reduction demonstration projects.

These project categories are complementary to one another. States are encouraged to be creative in identifying and developing proposals that address local needs through a multifaceted approach that integrates activities from all three project categories.

#### **Examples of Activities for Projects that Qualify (not all inclusive)**

##### **Hazardous Fuel Reduction Projects:**

- Use of prescribed fire
- Use of mechanical means (i.e. chippers, brush hog mowers, plows for dozers)
- Small-diameter utilization (biomass)
- Vegetation management (i.e. pruning, mowing, chemical, grazing)
- Shaded fuel breaks
- Defensible space around homes and structures
- Removal of slash

##### **Information and Education in the Wildland-Urban Interface:**

- Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) or equivalent
- Firewise/defensible space programming
- Pamphlets, brochures, and handouts that focus on Rxfire, Hazard Fuels Treatments, CWPPs, and/or Firewise
- Inspecting fire-prone property
- Videos, PSAs, newspaper inserts

##### **Risk Reduction and Hazard Mitigation for Homeowners and Their Communities:**

- Homeowner/Association-sponsored fuels reduction projects
- Community fire protection plans or equivalent
- Municipal, fire district, county, and community coordination of slash disposal
- Multijurisdictional hazard reduction projects
- Community projects that focus on reducing the risk of ignition or loss

#### **Examples of Activities for Projects that Do Not Qualify (not all inclusive)**

- Purchase of fire department equipment, including fire weather stations
- Purchase and installation of dry fire hydrants
- Small business start-up funding
- Research and development projects
- Capital improvements (i.e. facilities)
- Fire preparedness and suppression capacity building

## **Criteria for Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation Proposal Selection**

### **1. Project Objectives Address Forest Fire Hazard Mitigation (25 points)**

- Show that a new project/initiative not previously funded contributes to the State Forest Action Plan.
- How do hazardous wildland fuels treatment activities within the wildland-urban interface (WUI) advance the priorities in the State Forest Action Plan?
- Show how the hazardous wildland fuels treatment activities are tied to a CWPP.
- How does the Community/Homeowner Education Targeting Risk, Prevention, and Mitigation objective relate to a priority area of the State?
- How does the mitigation activity reduce the risk and consequences of wildfire in the WUI?
- Show how Community Wildfire Protection Planning and Assessments reduce forest fire hazards.

### **2. Measures of Success that Relate to Strategic Priorities of the State Forest Action Plan and Identify Client Benefit (25 points)**

- Show how the number of high-risk communities assisted is tied to the State Forest Action Plan goals.
- Demonstrate where the hazardous fuel acres treated contribute to the State Forest Action Plan.
- How is the number of homeowners served related to the State's strategic priorities?
- Demonstrate where the Community Wildfire Protection Plans prepared and implemented fit within the State Forest Action Plan.
- Show how Firewise Programming advances the State Forest Action Plan.

### **3. Partnerships and Collaboration (20 points)**

- What do partners identified as sharing in the implementation of this project contribute toward a successful outcome?
- If the project is tied to a high-risk community(ies)/project(s) adjacent to or near Federal lands, how are the Federal partners engaged?
- Demonstrate how the project is tied to other targeted program areas identified within The National Fire Plan, 10-year Comprehensive Strategy, and/or the Healthy Forest Initiative or State Forest Action Plan.

### **4. Expected Outcomes or Products that Demonstrate an Innovative Approach (20 points)**

- How does the project use an innovative approach to raise awareness about the benefits of Community Wildfire Protection Planning?
- Demonstrate how hazardous fuels treatment activities are innovative.
- Describe the innovative approach to pilot/regional/statewide RX Burn Programs in high-risk communities.
- How do innovative pilot Firewise Community workshop(s) work in communities identified in the State Forest Action Plan?
- How are community residents informed and educated about using an innovative approach?

### **5. Capacity for Replication (10 points)**

- Indicate whether the project has the capacity to be initiated in other communities or geographic areas within the State and/or out of the State.

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## **Category 3: Forest Health Management and Treatments**

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The Forest Health Management and Treatments category is for projects that focus on promoting sustainable forest management by maintaining the health and vitality of forest ecosystems at risk from potentially damaging agents. This opportunity targets management activities with measurable outcomes on priority landscapes and key forest health issues within the Northeast and Midwest United States.

### **Eligible Activities**

- Prevention, suppression, and/or eradication of invasive and native damaging agents
- Restoration of forests following damaging events to promote desired future conditions
- Enhanced surveys and technical assistance for problems not supported by core FHP funds
- Activities to enhance public engagement in forest health management

Projects related to the following forest health issues are solicited through the Category 3 RFP:

- Asian longhorned beetle
- Emerald ash borer
- Hemlock woolly adelgid
- Thousand cankers disease
- Invasive plants

Other pests, issues, and concerns relating to forest health (including but not limited to abiotic events, urban forest health monitoring, nursery pests, diebacks and declines, and new/emerging pests/concerns) should be submitted under the Category 1 RFP. This RFP category (#3) is intended to support “single-concern” proposals. **Multiple-pest concerns or otherwise integrated proposals should be submitted as a Redesign (Category 1) RFP project.**

Refer to information pertaining to treatment and management objectives for specific pests in appendix A, which is available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>.

### **Excluded from Consideration under this RFP**

- Gypsy moth suppression, eradication, and Slow the Spread (STS). These will be determined by cooperative surveys or other efforts in cooperation with the STS Foundation.
- National and cross-regional initiatives such as oak wilt control, Early Detection/Rapid Response (EDRR), Evaluation Monitoring (EM), Forest Service-Pesticide Impact Assessment Program (FSPIAP), and Special Technology Development Projects (STDP). These will be run through a separate national process.
- Forest Health methods (applied technology development). These will be solicited separately, funded primarily with State and Private Federal lands Forest Health funds (SPFH).

### **Project Submission Information**

Both large and small projects will be considered and funded. There is no limit on the number of proposals (single or multistate) any one entity can submit. There is no minimum proposal funding level. Should additional funds become available, ranked proposals from this RFP will be considered for funding.

## **Criteria for Forest Health Management and Treatment Proposal Selection (relative weight)**

### **1. Significant Issue or Concern (20 points):**

- Proposal addresses significant and/or emerging forest health issue
- Proposal is clearly linked to State, regional, and/or national objectives and priorities
- Proposal addresses forest health concern currently affecting the State(s)
- Proposal moves to a desired future condition as articulated in the State(s) Forest Action Plan

### **2. Measurable Results/Outcomes Expected (40 points):**

- Includes a clear purpose for the project
- Improves forest health by monitoring, controlling, suppressing, eradicating, or preventing damage agents in priority landscapes
- Includes specific actions to be accomplished, measured, and reported
- Produces results/outcomes at a scale and cost appropriate to the benefits
- Maximizes return on investment

### **3. Collaboration and Partnerships (15 points):**

- Demonstrates leadership in cross-boundary cooperation (multistate, metropolitan and multicomunity, multilandowner) in the scope of delivery and influence
- Demonstrates collaborative, coordinated, and integrated delivery within and between other State, Federal, and non-Federal partners and programs
- Describes specific contributions of all partners and the critical role of those partners in leveraging outcomes

### **4. Technical Soundness (30 points):**

- Demonstrates that proposed measures reflect current state of the art and knowledge
- Demonstrates awareness of and integration with other related work (as appropriate)
- Organization and staff have appropriate qualifications

### **IMPORTANT NOTE:**

If a proposal involves treatment, or has a treatment component, a completed form 3400-2 (available at <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/rfp/index.shtm>) is required, including the cost of treatments.

In addition, the treatment component should:

- Show strong potential for meeting project objectives and must be supported by a biological evaluation that substantiates the need for the project and the strategies proposed.
- Be environmentally acceptable and appropriately documented in accordance with appropriate laws.
- In order to be eligible for such assistance, the entity having ownership or jurisdiction over the affected land must:
  - Consent, cooperate, and participate in the project
  - Contribute directly to the work to be done
  - Have the legal authority to carry out such projects

- Treatment projects require the following documentation:
  - Appropriate documentation in accordance with the relevant and required environmental analyses
  - Biological evaluations, including pre-treatment and post-treatment evaluations
  - Work, safety, and security plans where appropriate or required
- Forest Health funds may not be used to cut dead trees or to cut trees that have commercial value.
- Cooperators shall also maintain appropriate records for each project, including the location of areas treated.