

A Request for Pre-Proposals

From the Forest Health Protection Program of the State and Private Forestry Section of the Pacific Southwest Region of the USDA Forest Service

For

Conducting Activities Related to Monitoring, Extension, Management and Mitigation of the Sudden Oak Death Disease Caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*

(Deadline for Submission January 7, 2016)

Summary of this Request for Pre-Proposals (RFP)

The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection (FHP) program is seeking proposals from organizations, universities, extension services, companies or other entities to conduct management activities that could limit the impact of Sudden Oak Death in California or SW Oregon, pathology activities that will provide new information on the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* (the cause of Sudden Oak Death), and extension activities to share relevant information on this disease to a broad spectrum of interested stakeholders. Tribal groups are especially encouraged to apply. Grants need to be matched dollar for dollar with non-federal funds or in-kind work.

Background Information

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is caused by *Phytophthora ramorum*. First official reports of this disease on the West Coast were from Santa Cruz and Marin Counties and the Big Sur area in the mid-1990s. The disease caused by this pathogen often leads to death of tanoak, and coast live oak. Over the past thirteen years, the pathogen has spread widely in the coastal hills of central and northern California and has also impacted the extreme SW corner of Oregon.

Several million susceptible trees have already died in this region and millions more are at risk. Where large numbers of trees have died from this disease, there is a probability of increased fire risk, habitat loss, decreased beauty, reduced shade and noise filtering in urban areas, and a potential for changes in watershed condition. The pathogen is indifferent to property boundaries and is currently present in forests and woodlands of many private owners as well as on public lands.

Several groups have expressed concern about the pathogen and a few have begun to take actions that lead to a better understanding of the pathogen and the diseases it causes and towards mitigation of its impacts. One of the principal entities is the USDA Forest Service.

Over the past eleven years, the Forest Health Protection program of the State and Private Forestry branch of the Pacific Southwest Region of the USDA Forest Service (henceforth FHP) has funded about \$12,000,000 for sudden oak death (SOD) monitoring, education and management activities. This will be the ninth year that the RFP process will be used to award grants.

Program Outline

This FHP SOD request for proposals seeks partner organizations to conduct the following types of activities:

- 1) Provide services that will limit the impact of the pathogen through any of the following measures:
 - a. Demonstrations to property owners and land managers of symptom recognition and effective prevention and suppression techniques for reducing the localized impact of sudden oak death disease especially where there are high property or cultural values or important resource values such as for wildlife habitat or for recreation use.
 - b. Eradication of infected trees or shrubs in areas of new finds that expand the current known distribution of *P. ramorum* in California.
 - c. Activities that serve to slow the spread of the disease to vulnerable uninfected areas.

- 2) Detection & Evaluation:
 - a. Early detection monitoring to be focused in areas that are at high risk and would expand the known current distribution of the disease;
 - b. Diagnostic methods to efficiently and cost-effectively identify the organism from collected samples;
 - c. Long-term monitoring of ecological impact.

In general, proposals should be for grants of between \$10,000 and \$90,000 per year. Multi-year, collaborative projects are encouraged. A stream-bait sampling program that would serve multiple watersheds (as opposed to several programs for separate watersheds) is especially encouraged.

The Pre-Proposal Process

Proposed projects should be strongly focused on activities that lead to meeting objectives 1 and/or 2 above. Proposals should be for a project that will last for one year, although a project may be extended for up to five years if there are unspent funds at the end of that year.

Potential project leaders are encouraged to review sudden oak death/*Phytophthora ramorum* information provided in the website www.suddenoakdeath.org to obtain general background information on this disease.

Pre-Proposals should be short (2-5 pages) and to the point. They should contain the following information:

Name of Project

Project Manager, and cooperator's name, organization, addresses, contact numbers, email addresses

Summary Statement

Background Information and Justification

Objectives

Methods and County where project will be located

Schedule of Activities, including quarterly progress reports

Budget

Personnel, salaries, contractors, hourly wages

Supplies (no individual expense over \$5,000)

Travel (domestic and international)

Overhead

Cost Share information-

Cooperator cost share is required and must be included in the budget. The minimum requirement is 50% of the total project cost. This means there must be a non-federal contributed dollar to match each federal dollar that is requested.

Abbreviated *Curriculum Vitae* for project managers and cooperators-

Permits-

Applicants must demonstrate that they have permission to conduct the activities that they propose to carry out on the land area that will be involved. Note: *Phytophthora ramorum* is a quarantine pathogen so applicants may need to have proper permits from the California Department of Food and Agriculture and/or the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Deadline-

Proposals must arrive to the Pacific Southwest Regional Office by 4:00 pm on Jan. 12, 2016. Please submit one email copy and four hard copies to the following address:

Phil Cannon

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection

1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA, 94592

pcannon@fs.fed.us

A confirmation letter will be sent upon receipt of proposals.

The project proposals will be carefully reviewed by a selection committee and evaluated based on the following criteria:

- 1) Quality of the proposal
- 2) Potential contribution for managing SOD
- 3) Demonstration of collaborative arrangements with other entities interested in detection, extension or management of SOD
- 4) Chances for success

Success or failure of a proposal to qualify for a grant will be determined by February 3rd, 2016; potential project managers will be advised of the results of the evaluation shortly thereafter. Pending a signed agreement or modification, funds should be available for execution by June 1, 2016 or sooner, depending on when the Forest Service gets its budget.

Any questions should be addressed to Phil Cannon by email or by calling 707-562-8913.

Important notes:

- 1) Some applicants may already have an ongoing Sudden Oak Death grant with our office. If, by Feb. 1, 2016, there are still more than half a year's operating costs remaining in the unspent balance for that grant, it is likely that additional funds will not be added to that grant in Fiscal 2016 (there may be exceptions, especially where the main activity is streambaiting).
- 2) University employees that apply should run these pre-proposals through their sponsored services offices prior to submitting them to FHP (Phil Cannon). If overhead rates of over 35% are listed in the match, some discussion should be anticipated.
- 3) If your project is selected, grantees will be required to complete grant application forms (SF 424 and others) before work may begin.