

November 30, 2020

**A Request for Pre-Proposals for 2021-2022**

**From the Forest Health Protection Program, State and Private Forestry,  
Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service**

**For**

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

**(Deadline for Submission January 15, 2021)**

**Summary of this Request for Pre-Proposals (RFP)**

The USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection (FHP) 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 Southwest Oregon. Proposals are invited for pathology activities that will provide new information on the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* (cause of Sudden Oak Death and other diseases), and extension activities to share relevant information to a broad spectrum of interested parties. Grants need to be matched dollar-for-dollar with nonfederal funds or in-kind work. Tribal groups are especially encouraged to apply and do not need to provide matching funds.

**Background Information**

Sudden Oak Death (SOD) is caused by *P. ramorum*. First reports of this disease on the West Coast were from Santa Cruz and Marin Counties and the Big Sur area (Monterey County) in the mid-1990s. The disease often leads to death of tanoak and coast live oak. Over the past 25 years, the pathogen has spread in the coastal ranges of central and northern California and has also impacted susceptible trees in Southwest Oregon.

Approximately 50 million susceptible trees have already died from SOD in this region and millions more are at risk. Where large numbers of trees have died, there is a probability of increased fire risk, habitat loss, decreased beauty, reduced shade and noise filtering, and a potential for changes in watershed condition. The pathogen is indifferent to property boundaries. It is currently present in forests and woodlands over many private ownerships and 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 those principal entities is the USDA Forest Service. Over the past 20 years, Forest Health Protection, State and Private Forestry Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service has funded about \$14.5 million for sudden oak death (SOD) monitoring, education and management activities. This will be the fourteenth year that the RFP process will be used to award grants.

## Program Overview

This Pacific Southwest Region 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 especially where there are high property or cultural values or important resource values such as for wildlife habitat or for recreational use.
  - b. Activities that serve to slow the spread of *P. ramorum* to vulnerable but as-yet uninfested areas.
  
- 2) Detection & Evaluation:
  - a. Early detection monitoring 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 samples;
  - c. Long-term monitoring of ecological impacts.

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.

**Important Note:** Currently, the total amount of funding available for the 2021 SOD grant program is unknown. We are expecting that this will be resolved early in 2021.

## 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 four years if there are unspent funds at the end of that year.

Potential project leaders are encouraged to review sudden oak death/*P. ramorum* background information provided at [www.suddenoakdeath.org](http://www.suddenoakdeath.org).

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

Project title

Project manager, and cooperators' names, organizations, addresses, contact numbers, email addresses

Summary statement

Background information and justification

November 30, 2020

## Objectives

Methods and county where project will be located

Schedule of activities, including progress reports each semester

## 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: *P. 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 January 15, 2021. Please submit one email copy and four paper 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  
[phil.cannon@usda.gov](mailto:phil.cannon@usda.gov)