

A Request for Pre-Proposals for 2022-2023

USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection

For

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

Deadline for submission: January 11, 2022

Request for Pre-Proposals (RFP) Summary. The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection (FHP) program is seeking proposals from organizations, universities, extension services, tribes, companies or other entities to conduct management activities aimed at limiting the impact of sudden oak death in California or Southwest 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. Grants need to be matched dollar for dollar with non-federal 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*. The 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 often leads to death of tanoak and coast live oak. Over the past several decades, the pathogen has spread widely in the coastal ranges of central and northern California and has also impacted susceptible trees in southwest Oregon.

Approximately 50 million trees have died from SOD in this region and hundreds of millions more are at risk. Where large numbers of trees have died, there is an increased fire risk, habitat loss, decreased beauty, reduced shade and noise filtering in urban areas, and a potential for other changes in watershed condition. The pathogen is indifferent to property boundaries and is currently present in forests and woodlands under many private ownerships, as well as on public lands.

Several groups have expressed concern about the pathogen and 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 sixteen years, Forest Health Protection, State and Private Forestry, Pacific Southwest Region, USDA Forest Service (FHP) has provided about \$15 million for sudden oak death (SOD) monitoring, education, and management activities. This will be the fifteenth year that a 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 especially where there are high property or cultural values or important resource values such as for wildlife habitat or for recreation use.
 - b. Activities that serve to slow the spread of *P. ramorum* to vulnerable but as yet uninfected areas.
 - c. Activities to detect, monitor and control new variants of *P. ramorum* recently detected in California forests.

- 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.

Important Note: At the time of preparing this RFP, the total amount of funding that will be available for this 2022 SOD grant program is unknown. We are expecting that this will be resolved early in 2022.

The Pre-Proposal Process. Proposed projects should be strongly focused on activities that lead to meeting objectives 1 and 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.

Project leaders are encouraged to review sudden oak death/*Phytophthora ramorum* information provided at www.suddenoakdeath.org to obtain general background information.

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

Name of Project

Project manager, cooperators, organizations, physical addresses, contact numbers, email addresses

Summary Statement

Background Information and Justification

Objectives, Methods and County where project will be conducted

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.

Very abbreviated *Curriculum Vitae* for the project manager 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 the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Deadline. Proposals must arrive to the Pacific Southwest Regional Office by 4:00 pm on January 11, 2022. Please submit one email copy to both of these addresses: philip.cannon@usda.gov and ashley.hawkins@usda.gov. Also send three hard copies to the following address:

Phil Cannon, USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, State and Private Forestry,
1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA, 94592

Note: Once the project is approved there will be several forms to fill out.