

A Request for Pre-Proposals for 2024-2025

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 26th, 2024)

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, tribes, 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. 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 *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 fifteen years, the pathogen has spread widely in the coastal ranges of central and northern California and has also impacted susceptible trees in the extreme SW corner of Oregon.

At least 80,000,000 susceptible trees have already died from SOD in this region and hundreds of 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 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 many have begun to take actions that are leading 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 eighteen 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

\$16,000,000 for sudden oak death (SOD) monitoring, educational and management activities. This will be the seventeenth year that the RFP process will be used to award grants.

It is assumed that the amount of funding available for this SOD program will be the same as last year. However, it must be pointed out that as this Request for Proposals is being prepared the US Congress has not yet decided how much funding will be available to the USDA Forest Service in 2024, so there may be a need to adjust proposal budgets soon after the US budget for 2024 is revealed.

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. 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* which are now showing up in some 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 \$50,000 and \$100,000 per year. Multi-year, collaborative projects are 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 four 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 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 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-

Please submit an email copy of your proposal to both of these addresses (philip.cannon@usda.gov and ashley.hawkins@usda.gov) by Jan 26th, 2024.

Important Note: Once approved there will be several official forms to fill out.