

**DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE****Request for Proposals (RFP)****2008 WMA Research Mini-Grants Program:  
Testing of New or Further Development of  
Existing Field Techniques to Eradicate  
Noxious and Invasive Weeds in California**

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is requesting proposals generated by Weed Management Area groups or other researchers to conduct one year pilot study research trials on field techniques for noxious and invasive weed projects in California. It is very likely that pilot projects funded in this cycle will be given an opportunity for a second year of funding in 2009 and possibly a third year of funding in 2010, based on overall quality of project initiation and preliminary results.

The funding available in this 2008 RFP (\$20,000) comes from CDFA's general fund budget and is intended to address the cooperative prevention, early detection, and eradication of noxious weed populations in California. A scoring system will be used to evaluate proposals as objectively as possible based on criteria described below.

**Eligibility:**

Proposals must be submitted in conjunction with a recognized county-based California WMA. Graduate students and other faculty affiliated with a University, State, or Private College in California can easily be connected with a WMA group in your area of research, simply contact Carri Piroso, [cpirosko@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cpirosko@cdfa.ca.gov). Likewise, Farm Advisors and staff associated with UCCE can be connected with a WMA group, simply contact Carri Piroso at [cpirosko@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cpirosko@cdfa.ca.gov). All recognized WMA groups are eligible to submit proposals, regardless of previous funding.

Research projects within the proposal work plan can be conducted by any signatory(s) of the WMA or California University, State, or Private College, but the lead agency for contracting purposes must be a County Agricultural Department, Resource Conservation District, other governmental agency, or research institution.

**Proposals due date:**

Proposals must be submitted by **5pm, Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008** by email to: [cpirosko@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cpirosko@cdfa.ca.gov). Late proposals will not be accepted!  
(send attachments on one email – we CAN accept LARGE files)

**What a proposal must include:**

Each proposal shall include the following two documents, which **must** be created using the electronic example templates:

- 1) Proposed work plan (Microsoft Word document);
- 2) Proposed budget (Microsoft Excel spreadsheet);

Proposals that do not follow the work plan and budget format as provided in the templates will not be accepted.

**How many projects may be submitted per proposal:**

Each WMA mini-grants research proposal is limited to 3 separate projects maximum per WMA. [It is recommended however to have one project submitted] Since it is a possibility that WMAs will not have all of their proposed research projects funded, it is best to prioritize candidate projects within the WMA first for strategic importance (by voting or delegated authority) and submit only the highest priority research project(s).

**Priority Topic Areas:**

Proposed projects must fall within one of the Priority Topic Areas listed below.

Weeds to be addressed are those rated by:

CDFA as A, B, C or Q:

[http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/encycloweedia/pdfs/noxiousweed\\_ratings.pdf](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/encycloweedia/pdfs/noxiousweed_ratings.pdf),

-OR-

Cal-IPC as High, Moderate, or Limited (Limited is a category largely designated because more information is needed on a particular species, see Priority Area 2):

<http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php>.

1) **Flushing the Seed Bank.** Techniques in flushing the seed bank to try and decrease the number of years it takes to eradicate a noxious or invasive weed site. One aspect often overlooked in the eradication of a weed species is the seed lying dormant in the soil. More research in non-crop areas is needed to implement methods to try and force seeds in the soil to germinate and thus exhaust the seed source. Techniques needing more research include, but are not limited to: irrigation, shallow tillage, or controlled burns.

2) **Little to No Management Research Conducted to Date.** Many invasive weed species were identified as having little to no information about management techniques when evaluated through an Invasive Plant Inventory by the California Invasive Plant Council, <http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/inventory/index.php>. Such weed species are typically new to the state or rather limited in distribution (for example: a weed species currently found only in the Bay Area or one region in Southern California). Help fill-in some of these gaps in management data.

Go to the CalIPC Plant Profile Page,

[http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/management/plant\\_profiles/index.php](http://www.cal-ipc.org/ip/management/plant_profiles/index.php),

to query a particular candidate research species and determine how much management information is currently known to exist from the following sources: books, proceedings, newsletters and personal communications. If little to no known research on management techniques is listed, this species is eligible for study under this priority topic area.

3) **Restoration** Many restoration projects are conducted in areas containing non-native, invasive plants. The focus of restoration projects is often on managing the weeds, as well as, establishing the desired native plants. Potential research projects in this area could focus on, but are not limited to:

What types of native plant communities are more resistant to weed invasion? As an example, Caltrans has funded studies in this area and WMAs could expand on their finding with plantings of native plants appropriate for their area.

What happens after restoration is complete? WMAs could re-visit restoration sites and collect information on the native and invasive plants occurring there. Ideally information would be available on the methods initially used to establish the restoration area. Projects which incorporate wildlife or soil interactions would also be useful.

#### 4) **Wildlife and Invasive Plant Interactions**

The connection between wildlife (many levels, including insects) and invasive plants is often assumed to be negative. Information would be helpful on whether and to what extent wildlife are using invasive plant populations for food, shelter, cover, etc. Comparisons of wildlife use of invaded and non-invaded areas would also be helpful in quantifying the impacts of an invasive plant on an ecosystem. Following the observational studies, it would be helpful to ascertain whether wildlife use changes after different control practices.

### **Reporting and Dissemination of Results**

Within 30 days completion of contract, an article detailing your research results must be submitted to CDFA for inclusion on the State WMA Webpage, as well as for printing in various invasive and noxious weed newsletters (Noxious Times, CallIPC Newsletter, etc.). A presentation of results at the annual WMA Statewide Meeting and CallIPC Symposium may also be requested.

### **Funding time period:**

We are soliciting **1-year proposals** for pilot research projects to be conducted during the **2009 calendar year (January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009)**. As you will see when completing your project budget using the template, the budget needs to be broken out between the portion which falls in the state's 2008/2009 Fiscal Year (Jan 1, 2009 – June 30, 2009); the portion which falls in the state's 2009/2010 Fiscal Year (July 1, 2009 – December 31, 2009).

### **Cost-sharing is a requirement:**

Proposals must provide as a minimum a 50:50 cost-share. Cost-sharing is counted as local resources (monetary or in-kind) contributed to help carry out the project for which CDFA funding is being requested in this proposal. Having more than a 50:50 match can increase the score for your proposal (up to 5 points).

### **Maximum amount for funding request:**

Because of limited funding not all proposals will be selected for funding. Each Weed Management Area or other researcher can request up to **\$5,000.00** total for one calendar year.

### **Allowable Administrative Costs:**

The agency or institution that acts as the contracting agent with CDFA is eligible to budget up to 10% of the contract for administrative costs. Sub-contracts may not charge administrative costs

unless the primary contractor does not take them. In other words only 10% of the funds can go to administrative costs.

**Proposal Scoring:**

Points listed are the maximum potential for that category. Proposals will be scored by CDFA and the program’s WMA Research Review Committee.

**Qualifications of the WMA or other Researcher**

Strength and past performance of WMA or researcher in weed research **10 points**

**Importance of the project**

How closely does the stated project objective fit Priority Area(s)? **15 points**

Strength of evidence for local or regional significance or long-term benefits? **25 points**

**Quality of the Research Objectives and Methods**

Clarity of objective(s) and effectiveness of research methodology **25 points**

**Performance Measures**

Clear and realistic milestones and planned dissemination of results **15 points**

**Budget**

Does the budget seem realistic and appropriate? **5 points**

Does the project go beyond 50:50 cost-share requirements? **5 points**

**Total** 

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**100 points**

**Questions and comments should be directed to:**

Carri Pirosko  
Weed Management Area Program  
Integrated Pest Control Branch  
California Dept. of Food & Ag  
530-545-9119  
[cpirosko@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:cpirosko@cdfa.ca.gov)

-OR-

Terrance Lorick  
Weed Management Area Program  
Integrated Pest Control Branch  
California Dept. of Food & Ag  
916-651-0573  
[tlorick@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:tlorick@cdfa.ca.gov)