

A Request for Pre-Proposals

**From the Forest Health Protection Program
of the State and Private Forestry Section 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 February 20, 2009)

Summary of this Request For Pre-Proposals (RFP)

The USDA Forest Service, State and Private Forestry, Forest Health Protection 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 leading to the provision of new information on the spread of *Phytophthora ramorum* (the cause of Sudden Oak Death), and extension activities to divulge relevant information on this disease to a broad spectrum of interested stakeholders. Tribal groups are especially encouraged to apply. Approximately \$500,000 in grants is available in federal fiscal year 2009. 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 decade, 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 conditions. 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 of these groups have begun to take actions that will lead to a better understanding of the pathogen and the diseases it causes and towards a mitigation of its impact. One of the principal entities is the USDA Forest Service.

Over the past eight 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 over \$7,200,000 for sudden oak death (SOD) monitoring, education and management activities. This is the third year that the RFP process will be used to award grants. (Please see Important Notes 2 through 5 at the end of this document).

Program Outline

Approximately \$500,000 is expected to be available this year (through FHP) for grants that will lead to conducting activities 1 and 2, below. In general, proposals should be for grants of between \$5,000 and \$100,000 per year. Multi-year, collaborative projects are encouraged. However, please be advised that somewhat reduced levels of funding are anticipated beginning in 2010.

This FHP SOD request for proposals is looking for 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 values or important resource values such as wildlife habitat, recreation use, or stands with high cultural values.
 - b. Activities that would serve to slow the spread of the disease to vulnerable but as yet uninfected areas.
 - c. Eradication of infected trees or shrubs in areas of new finds that expand the current known distribution of *P. ramorum* in California.

- 2) Detection & Evaluation:
 - a. Early detection monitoring to be focused in areas that are at a high risk and that 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.

The Pre-Proposal Process

Proposed projects should be strongly focused on activities that lead to meeting objectives 1 and/or 2 above.

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 cooperators

name, organization, addresses, contact numbers, email addresses

Summary Statement

Background Information and Justification

Objectives

Methods and Geographic Location

Schedule of Activities, including quarterly progress reports

Budget

Personnel, salaries, contractors, hourly wages

Supplies

Equipment (no equipment more than \$5,000)

Travel (domestic and international)

Overhead

Cost Share information-

Cooperator cost share is required and should be included in the budget. The minimum requirement is 50% of the total project cost. This means there will need to be a nonfederal contributed dollar to match each federal dollar awarded for all federal funds asked for in the grant.

Abbreviated CVs 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 must 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 February 20, 2009. Please submit one email copy and three 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 disinterested and deliberately heterogeneous selection committee.

The proposals will be evaluated for the following criteria:

Quality of the proposal

Potential contribution for managing SOD

Demonstration of collaborative arrangements with other entities interested
in detection, extension or management of SOD

Chances for success

Success or failure of a proposal to qualify for a grant will be determined by April 20 of 2009; potential project managers will be advised of the results of the evaluation shortly thereafter.

Funds should be available for the execution of qualifying projects by June 1, 2009.

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

Important notes:

- 1) Also, university employees that might be applying should run these pre-proposals through their sponsored services offices prior to submitting them to FHP (Phil Cannon).
- 2) If your project is selected, grantees will be required to fill out agreement forms (SF 424 and others) before work may begin.