

American Forest Foundation
Request for Proposals
Graduate Research Seminars (Fall 2009) / Research Fellow (2009/2010)



American Forest Foundation

INTRODUCTION

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a 501c3 non-profit organization committed to creating a future where North American forests are sustained by a public that understands and values the social, economic, and environmental benefits that private family forests provide to our communities, our nation, and our world.

The American Forest Foundation is launching a new research grants program that aims to fill gaps in our understanding of forest ecology, the socio-economic dimensions of forest ownership and management, and the impact of public policies on forest sustainability, with an emphasis on family forests. The findings of this grants program will help develop and advance policies that improve the sustainability of America's family forests.

2008 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Research Grants Program of the American Forest Foundation seeks proposals from university faculty who are interested in leading a graduate research seminar during the fall semester of 2009, and/or hosting an AFF Fellow in the fall of 2009 / spring of 2010.

The graduate research seminar is expected to focus on one on the following issues of relevance to family forests, and explore how different policy approaches to these issues could improve the sustainability of family forests:

- 1) What are the current and projected impacts of bio-energy markets on the sustainability of family forests? What policy approaches would encourage participation in these markets and improve the economic, ecological, and social sustainability of family forests?
- 2) What suite of forest ecosystem services are relevant to different ownership classes of family forest owners? What policy approaches would encourage family forest owners to maximize the benefits that their forests provide, both to themselves and to society at large?
- 3) What are the anticipated impacts of climate change on family forests, and what are the best adaptation strategies? Given the unique challenges of working with family forests, what are the best policy options to maintain intact forestland at the landscape level, ensuring a climate benefit as well as the overall economic viability and ecological sustainability of family forests?

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The American Forest Foundation will make three awards of up to \$30,000 each to support three graduate research seminars. The use of the funding is up to the discretion of the Principal Investigator but could include travel support for guest speakers, site visits, etc. Each seminar is expected to take an interdisciplinary approach, examining and analyzing the social, economic and ecological dimensions of the issue. The findings from the seminars will be presented by each Principle Investigator and the AFF Fellow (see below) at an annual meeting of the AFF Research Partners. Furthermore, the findings will be written as white papers that document the current state of knowledge, identify knowledge gaps, compare and contrast different policy approaches, and provide policy recommendations.

Those applying to lead a graduate seminar are also invited to apply to host the AFF Fellow for the 2009/2010 academic year. The AFF Fellow will be selected by the Principal Investigator at the winning university. The AFF Fellow should hold a relevant postgraduate degree (PhD, JD, Master of Environmental Policy, etc.) and have an interest in multi-disciplinary approaches to translating science into policy. The AFF Fellow will coordinate the efforts between his/her host university and the other two universities hosting the graduate research seminars. Drawing on the white papers produced by the three Principal Investigators, the AFF Fellow will produce a comprehensive report detailing the way forward to address these issues. The AFF Fellow is supported by a separate \$50,000 grant that will cover salary and fringe benefits.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals: Narrative proposals should be no more than four pages in length and should describe:

1. The Principal Investigator's experience and interest in the policy issue;
2. The qualitative and quantitative methods that will be used to explore the issue;
3. How the basic question will be expanded and what additional questions will be answered; and
4. How the proposed seminar will help develop policies that sustain America's family forests.

Additional Materials to Provide:

- Completed cover page (Available at www.forestfoundation.org/research)
- Abbreviated (no more than two pages) CVs of Principle Investigator and others involved in the seminar
- Draft seminar syllabus
- Draft seminar reading list
- Proposed budget
- Name and CV for proposed AFF Fellow (As applicable, and if available)

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Submissions Due: An electronic copy and twelve printed copies of all proposal materials must be received at the following address prior by 5PM on Monday December 1, 2008. Electronic submissions not accepted.

Research Grants Program
American Forest Foundation
1111 Nineteenth Street, NW Suite 780
Washington, DC 20036
Attn: Drue DeBerry

AFF will acknowledge receipt of all proposals through an email to the Principal Investigator.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection of the winning proposals will be based on factors including, but not limited to the following:

- Clarity of feasibility of proposal
- Proposed syllabus and reading list
- Qualifications of Principal Investigator
- Presence and significance of Collaborators
- Budget

Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of experts from within and beyond AFF, and awardees will be notified no later than December 19, 2008.