

**Justification for Non-Competition  
of  
Domestic Grants or Cooperative Agreements**

In accordance with the currently proposed draft of Forest Service Handbook 1581 and Forest Service Manual FSH 1509, as well as the current versions of 7 CFR 3015, Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, and 7 CFR 3019, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Agreements with Institutions or Higher Education, Hospitals and Other Non-Profit Organizations, written documentation to support non-competition is required for any domestic grants or cooperative agreements that exceed \$75,000, with the following exceptions:

**Competition is not required for:**

- (1) Non monetary awards of property or services;
- (2) Awards of less than \$75,000;
- (3) Awards to fund continuing work already started under a previous award;
- (4) Awards which cannot be delayed due to an emergency or substantial danger to health or safety;
- (5) Award when it is impracticable to secure competition; or
- (6) Awards to fund unique and innovative unsolicited applications.

**In order to justify non-competition of any grants or cooperative agreements over \$75,000, you must provide written documentation as to why this agreement was not competed and forward this justification to GAAM prior to the processing of any awards.**

The following items may assist you in preparing your justification for non-competition. You may also use any of the exceptions referenced above however you must substantiate your selection.

1. Provide reasoning why only one source is solicited or best qualified to perform the project.
2. Provide a description of any emergency or substantial danger to health or safety or why it is impracticable to secure competition, if applicable.
3. If the application proposes a continuation of an existing project, explain the cost savings or improved effectiveness, etc.
4. Other specific criteria met by the applicant that might demonstrate that the award is in the best interest of the Federal Government.