



USDA Forest Service State & Private Forestry Redesign Competitive Initiative FY 2010 Wisconsin Division of Forestry - Request for Pre-Proposals

Authorization

The DNR has recently received guidance for the State & Private Forestry Redesign Competitive Initiative FY 2010 from the USDA Forest Service. Only State Forestry agencies (in Wisconsin this is the Division of Forestry) are eligible to submit or authorize proposals (pass through direct to partners) for consideration under this competition. The Chief State Forester makes the final proposal selections and decisions to submit.

Process & Timeline

To facilitate the evaluation and rating process within the Division of Forestry, we have established the following process and timeline:

July 28, 2009: Division of Forestry requests pre-proposals (as described on the following page). Applicants must contact a DNR employee, preferably a Bureau Director to discuss the proposal. (further referred to as “DNR contact”)

August 14, 2009: Pre-proposals due to the Division of Forestry. (send by email to mary.brown@wi.gov and copy DNR contact)

August 31, 2009: Division of Forestry announces which pre-proposals should be developed into full projects.

September, 2009: Applicants draft proposals. Work with DNR staff to ensure financial components are correctly determined and to ensure all grant competitive criteria are addressed (e.g. addressing high priority areas, partners’ letters of support)

October 1, 2009: Proposals due to the Division of Forestry. (send by email to mary.brown@wi.gov and copy DNR contact)

October 16, 2009: Division of Forestry determines which proposals will be submitted and forwards to Northeastern Area, State & Private Forestry (NA, S&PF).

Important points to consider before submitting pre-proposals

1. Proposals that the Division of Forestry forwards compete against the 20 other northeastern area states. This is a very competitive process. For example, in 2009, of the 9 grants Wisconsin submitted or supported as a partner, only 2 were funded.
2. This is a long grant process. After final proposals are submitted on October 16, the USDA Forest Service announcement of successful applicants may be as late as February (2010) and funding disbursed in June (2010).

3. Proposals are reviewed by a team of NA, S&PF staff and state foresters from the NA. The grants are intended to demonstrate that federal funds are being spent on projects that address both nationally and regionally significant issues or landscapes. (See Redesign themes: <http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/redesign/redesign-themes.pdf>)

4. Projects need to be developed based on analysis within the state or region that identifies the issue or landscape being addressed as a high priority. For Wisconsin, this is the 2004 Statewide Forest Plan which identifies seven major themes of greatest concern in the state. As well, focused assessments, such as the following, can be used to further justify why the project is a priority: 2000 Millennium Assessment, forest health risk maps, Communities at Risk from wildfire, Spatial Analysis Project identifying high priority private forest land, and the Wildlife Action Plan. This is not an exhaustive list and other types of assessments may be used. (Contact Rebecca Gass for more information on these assessments.)

Proposal Themes

Proposals **must** address one or more of the following themes identified during the development of the [2004 Statewide Plan](#) and discussed at the 2004 Governor's Conference on Forestry. Issues and trends identified in the [2000 Millennium Statewide Forest Assessment](#) were analyzed to develop these themes. Currently, the Division of Forestry is conducting its next statewide assessment to be completed in 2010. By October, 2009, the major issues, opportunities, and strengths of the forest resource will be identified. Projects that address these more recent issues are preferred. The Division of Forestry will work with applicants to share these results and refine projects if needed.

Statewide Forest Plan 2004 Themes:

1. Conserving Wisconsin's Biological Diversity
2. Minimizing the Threat of Invasive Species to Wisconsin's Forests
3. Enhancing Assistance to Wisconsin's Private Forest Landowners
4. Managing the Impacts of Changes in Wisconsin's Land Use and Forest Ownership
5. Maintaining Wisconsin's Forest Based Economy
6. Enhancing Wisconsin's Urban Forests
7. Minimizing Recreational Use Conflicts in Wisconsin's Forests

Pre-proposal Format

By August 14, applicants must develop a project proposal and discuss it with a DNR contact. A one page or less description of the project should describe:

- the issue or need the project will address,
- an overview of how the project will work,
- any major partners that will need to be involved,
- the amount of funds being requested (this does not need to be a detailed budget).

As soon as possible, contact either a Division of Forestry Bureau Director or other Division staff to discuss your proposed project:

Wendy McCown, Bureau Forest Services (wendy.mccown@wi.gov)

Trent Marty, Bureau of Forest Protection (trent.marty@wi.gov)

Darrell Zastrow, Office of Forest Sciences (darrell.zastrow@wi.gov)

Bob Mather, Bureau of Forest Management (bob.mather@wi.gov)

For questions on the grant and application process, contact Rebecca Gass, Forest Planner (rebecca.gass@wi.gov, 608-266-9261)