

**State and Private Forestry
 FY 2010 Western Competitive
 Resource Allocation
 Single-State Project Proposal**

Filename	
WCG TSP 2010_singlestate.doc	
Administration Information	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$300,000
Matching Share:	\$350,000

Applicant Information	
State Forestry Agency:	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
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Project Information			
Descriptive Title of Project:	Technical Service Provider/Forestry Assistant Specialist funding		
Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	Natural Resource Conservation Service, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts University of California Cooperative Extension Service Northern California Society of American Foresters Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group		
State(s):	California	Congressional Districts:	1, 2,
Counties:	Humboldt, Mendocino, Shasta, Sonoma, and Trinity	Forest Service Regions:	R5

Total Leverage							
Please specify each 3 rd party contributor (partnering organizations and agencies, including other Federal) and the dollar value of each contribution. Please DO NOT show grant requested funds in this table.							
Contributors: (Please specify by name)	CALFIRE	NRCS	CARCD	UCCE			TOTAL
Value of Contributions:	\$300,000	\$100,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$450,000

Project Budget					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	TOTAL	
		Cash ¹	In-Kind ²		
4	Personnel / Labor:	\$270,000	\$300,000	\$40,000	\$610,000
	Fringe Benefits:	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000
	Travel:	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$4,500
	Equipment:	\$0	\$0	\$500	\$ 500
	Supplies:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Contractual:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Construction:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Other:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Indirect Costs:	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,000
	TOTAL:	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$50,000	\$650,000

Project Duration	
5	What is the duration of this project? <input type="checkbox"/> One Year <input type="checkbox"/> Two Years <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Three Years

National Relevance	
6	Conserve Working Forest Landscapes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Protect Forests From Harm <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Enhance Public Benefits From Trees and Forests <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Project Description	
7	<p>Maximum 5500 Characters Including Spaces – Clearly summarize the proposed project, including goals, objectives, measurable outputs, outcomes, and how grant funds will be used towards successful completion of the project.</p> <p>California wishes to continue providing technical and professional assistance to non-commercial private forest landowners. Funding requested would be used to help maintain California’s small cadre of Forestry Assistance Specialists, FAS, who are spread around the entire state’s forested counties. These FAS are all Registered Professional Foresters and trained to provide information and technical assistance to private landowners, Resource Conservation Districts, County Governments and other State and Federal agencies.</p> <p>Funds from this grant would be focused in the five forested counties of Northern California subject to the MOU between the Natural Resource Conservation Service, NRCS, and CAL FIRE and where there has been extraordinary participation by citizen’s forestry groups, University of California Cooperative Extension Service and the Northern California Society of Foresters in forest stewardship education of the public.</p> <p>Prompted by the 2008 FARM BILL and the Forest Stewardship Program National Standards and Guidelines, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding, MOU, whereby CAL FIRE’s FAS would qualify to become Technical Service Providers (TSP). Region 5, Forest Service will soon be co-signers of this MOU also.</p>

¹ ‘Cash’ is the value of any qualifying match the applicant pays for such as cash, staff time, supplies, or equipment.

² ‘In-Kind’ is the value of any qualifying match contributed by a non-federal 3rd party contributor such as donated time, supplies, or equipment.

Specifically the new Appendix to the Guidelines state: "State Forestry agencies are encouraged to engage with NRCS, Conservation Districts, USDA Forest Service and other partners in their states to coordinate and improve delivery of forestry assistance to landowners..."

"The 2008 Farm Bill explicitly allows participation by non-industrial private forest landowners in many USDA conservation programs, which are administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and/or Farm Service Agency (FSA)... Their Forest Stewardship Management Plan (FSMP) may also provide other required USDA information regarding highly erodible land and wetlands... Eligible NIPF landowners may then be able to apply for a wide range of cost-share assistance to implement their FSMP through these and other programs "

NRCS programs:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)
- Farm and Ranchland Protection Program (FRPP)
- Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)

While California is encouraged that our thousands of existing FSMPs can help our landowners qualify for EQIP and other programs, it comes at a time when our FAS, now TSP, are in danger of losing their positions due to abnormally low funding levels. Loss of these highly motivated and valuable personnel would greatly reduce our landowners ability to access the much needed cost-share funding available to them, as well as, reduce the forest stewardship education opportunities afforded to the public.

Conserving and Managing Working Forest Landscapes

- Among the FAS's many skills are developing Forest Stewardship Management Plans (FSMP) for landowners. The FSMP serves two functions in California: to help educate landowners regarding their property's ecological values and potential and to qualify for various cost-share programs including, the Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) the Forest Legacy Program (FLP) the California Forest Improvement Program (CFIP) and activities funded through the Forest Health Management Program (FHMP) and EQIP.

Protect Forests from Threats

- FAS provide landowners with needed technical assistance when they supervise various cost-share activities such as pre-commercial thinning, fuels reduction, stream restoration and reforestation.
- Landowners routinely contact the State for information on invasive species, forest pests, dying and diseased trees and other forest management questions. The FAS provide the landowners with on-the ground advice at no-cost to the landowner. This service can often prevent a small problem from becoming much larger and wide-spread.

Enhance Public Benefits from Private Forests

- FAS serve and assist on a variety of boards and councils in the forested counties of the state including Fire Safe Councils, Resource Conservation Districts, the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and ad hoc county committees. FAS are key players in developing Community Wildfire Protection Plans. They bring natural resource knowledge and a forest stewardship perspective when asked to make presentations to County Boards of Supervisors.
- FAS participation is key in forestry educational events around the state. FAS work with Forest Conservation Days which expose inner-city youth to forestry principles and help address "nature deficit disorder." Their participation is vital in the Forest Stewardship Workshops facilitated by the Northern California Society of American Foresters (NorCal SAF) and in partnership with University of California Cooperative Extension. Besides teaching some of the lessons they are also responsible for organizing the field trips needed for the practical portion of the classes. Within the focus area the FAS are working with local forestry groups such as the Sonoma County Forest Group to initiate up to 4 workshops/year.

FAILURE TO FUND THIS GRANT WILL RESULT IN THE LOSS OF HIGHLY TRAINED FORESTERS AND

GREATLY REDUCE THE ABILITY TO DELIVER STATE AND FEDERAL PROGRAMS TO THE NIPF LANDOWNER.

Program Integration

Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces

The forested region of the focus area is largely private and subject to deforestation from Sudden Oak Death, SOD.

FAS will:

Provide leadership, supervision and technical expertise in the development of all FSMPs approved by the State Forester and NRCS; this should result in 75-100 new plans

Provide one-on-one technical advice on tree diseases and/or insect outbreaks to landowners and county governments.

Aid in the implementation and delivery of various Forest Stewardship educational venues including the Forestry Institute for Teachers (3 session/year), Forest Stewardship Workshops (8 workshops) and Forest Conservation Days (one 3 day session/year)

Rank, inspect and make recommendations for approval of proposed grants, contracts and/or invoices funded through FSP and FHMP.

Make field evaluations of applicants to the Forest Legacy Program and monitor conservation easements purchased through the FLP; e.g. Jenner Headlands FLP, clearly in view of Scenic Highway 1, would protect over 5000 acres of coastal grasslands and upland forest.

8

Provide TSP expertise to NRCS for expansion of EQIP delivery

Provide technical expertise to County Governments and particularly RCDs.

Collaboration	
9	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The CAL FIRE FAS are key participants in on-going projects in the focus area. This proposal is supported by NRCS, the UC Cooperative Extension Service and Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) and the State Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SFSCC).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MOU between CAL FIRE and NRCS was developed to better serve the landowners in the focus area. The State Conservationist from NRCS and the Deputy Director of Resource Management of CAL FIRE met and developed criteria for collaboration between the two agencies for FAS to become TSP. • The NorCal SAF in association with the UC Cooperative Extension Service has had a long history of collaboration with CAL FIRE in providing educational opportunities for NIPF landowners. • The Sonoma County Forest Conservation Working Group is dependent on continued availability of the technical expertise provided by the FAS in conducting their Forest Stewardship Workshops. Last years workshops resulted in over 30 individual landowners developing FSMP and associated activities. • The CARCD Forestry and Fuels Committee and, the SFSCC are both reliant on FAS participation.

Leverage	
10	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The objective of the project is to empower landowners with an array of tools and educational materials that will lead to a continued forestland stewardship ethic. In California SAP data supports that over 95% of landowners who receiving a FSMP go on to accomplish at least one of the on-ground activities of timber stand improvement, fuels reduction, reforestation, water quality improvement and/or stream restoration. Non-land owner citizen participants in workshops often go on to become advocates for improvement in forest related activities within their communities including Urban Forestry projects. The majority of match will come from CAL FIRE General Fund and Proposition 40 in the form of salaries and benefits. The project leverages \$100K in EQIP dollars and FSP and FHMP funds. Landowner contributions will provide up to 50% of cost of planning development and on-ground activities. Participation of the Sonoma County Conservation Working Group will supply some in-kind support (at this time that amount is minimal but could increase). CARCD will provide \$25K in-kind support. UC Extension will provide up to \$25K of in-kind match. Involvement by the FAS is essential in leveraging the NorCal SAF WCG grant of 2009.</p>

Meaningful Scale	
11	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The focus area is in the northwestern portion of the state, including most of 5 counties, Humboldt, Trinity, Shasta, Mendocino and Sonoma. This area was chosen because of the high amount of non-industrial private forested land with populations of concerned landowners. The area has the majority of California’s FLP completed, funded and/or proposed projects and ranks high in stewardship potential in SAP. NRCS is well established in the area but is short on staff to deliver EQIP. CAL FIRE has, in the past few years, begun to increase our “stewardship” educational activities in these areas and noticed increased involvement from landowners and a higher level of interest in active forest management by the general citizenry. There are sawmills in the area but not biomass/energy processing plants in the area. We expect that through an increase in small private landowner involvement there will greater support for all industries that could be provided through active forest management.</p>

Sphere of Influence

12

Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces

The use of non-federal highly trained, adaptable, registered professional foresters working with NRCS to provide TSP, and other groups to provide educational and technical expertise is not particularly unique. What is different about this approach is that a very flexible state program, CFIP, will be used as the catalyst for developing the FSMP that will provide access to NRCS programs and federal S&PF programs. This concept means that one FAS meeting with a private landowners will have the ability to give the interest party “one-stop shopping” to access the full suite of governments programs available to them. The MOU between CAL FIRE and NRCS is a pilot program in just five of California’s forty forested counties that include over 16 million acres of privately-held, forested, land. If the project is successful it will be replicated state-wide, including the Tahoe basin, which would include Nevada where they could still provide landowners with TSP for EQIP.

This project will create a bridge to the future for all NRCS programs

Sustainability of Outcomes

13

Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces

Service Foresters have been in California for over 100 years and Forestry Assistance Specialists have been facilitating stewardship through the California Forest Improvement Program since 1978. But through this new effort FAS will be able to provide individuals and communities with a full compliment of programs and educational tools, from which they can achieve all of the national outcomes of conserving and managing working forest landscapes, protecting forests from threats and enhancing the public benefits from private forests.

Data supports that over 95% of California landowners who develop their FSMP conduct activities outlined in those plans within a three year period of the plan’s approval. Although we have no firm data on the efficacy of our workshops, empirical evidence suggests high attendance at the workshops correlates with greater community involvement in forestry related activities, especially in fuels reduction and community-wide planning and greater awareness and acceptance of active forest management. The combination of increased capacity and public awareness promotes future investment of time and money and thus, sustainability.