

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

| Filename | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| SD_Education.doc | |
| Administration Information | |
| Dollar Amount Requested: | \$147,612 |
| Matching Share: | \$368,266 |

| Lead Applicant Information | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| State Forestry Agency: | South Dakota Department of Agriculture, Resource Conservation & Forestry Divisio |
| Contact Person: | Raymond A. Sowers |
| Address: | 523 East Capitol |
| City/State/Zip Code: | Pierre, SD 57501 |
| Phone (Work/Cell): | 605-773-3623 / 605-280-4856 |
| Email: | Ray.Sowers@state.sd.us |
| Fax: | 605-773-4003 |

| Lead Applicant - Project Information | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|----------|
| Descriptive Title of Project: | Forest Landowner Education Project: "Today's Forest" | | |
| Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations: | SD Wildland Fire Suppression Division, South Dakota State University, South Dakota Cooperative Extension Service, SD State Energy Office, Dakota's Society of American Foresters, SD Tree Farm Committee, SD Family Forest Association, Black Hills Forest Resource Association, Black Hills National Forest | | |
| State(s): | South Dakota, Nebraska, Wyoming | Congressional Districts: | At Large |
| Counties: | Butte, Lawrence, Meade, Pennington, Custer, Fall River, and others | Forest Service Regions: | 2 |

| Lead Applicant – 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. | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Contributors: (Please specify by name) | Landowners | Wildland Fire Suppression Div. | SD Coop. Extension | Media | SD Energy Office | NGOs | TOTAL |
| | Value of Contributions: | \$7,500 | \$5,500 | \$20,000 | \$270,000 | \$10,000 | \$500 | \$313,500 |

| Lead Applicant – Project Budget | | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | Grant Share (\$ requested) | Applicant | Non-Federal Contributors | TOTAL | |
| | | Cash¹ | In-Kind² | | |
| 4 | Personnel / Labor: | \$10,075 | \$6,500 | \$31,275 | \$47,850 |
| | Fringe Benefits: | \$5,425 | \$3,500 | \$1,925 | \$10,850 |
| | Travel: | \$1,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$1,500 |
| | Equipment: | \$3,700 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,700 |
| | Supplies: | \$2,200 | \$0 | \$300 | \$2,500 |
| | Contractual: | \$97,900 | \$0 | \$280,000 | \$377,900 |
| | Construction: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Other: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Indirect Costs: | \$1,050 | \$710 | \$0 | \$1,760 |
| | TOTAL: | \$121,850 | \$10,710 | \$313,500 | \$446,060 |

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

| 6 | | National Relevance | |
|----------|--|--|---|
| | | 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"/> | |

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 nonfederal 3rd party contributor such as donated time, supplies, or equipment.

| Co - Applicant Information | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1.1 | State Forestry Agency: Wyoming State Forestry Division |
| | Contact Person: Bill Crapser |
| | Address: 1100 W. 22 nd Street |
| | City/Zip Code: Cheyenne Wyoming 82002 |
| | Phone (Work/Cell): 1-307-777-7586 |
| | Email: bcraps@state.wy.us |
| | Fax: 1-307-777-5986 |

| Co - Applicant Project Information | | | | |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 2.1 | Title of Project: | Forest Landowner Education Project: "Todays Forest" | | |
| | Partnering Agencies / Organizations: | Weston and Crook County Firewise Program, WY Tree Farm Program, WY Small Acreage Team, WY BMP Committee, WY Society of American Foresters | | |
| | State(s): | Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska | Congressional Districts: | 1 (At Large) |
| | Counties: | Crook and Weston | Forest Service Regions: | Region 2 |

| Co-Applicant – Total Leverage | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|
| 3.1 | 3rd Party Contributors: (Specify by name) | Landowners | | | | | TOTAL |
| | Value of Contributions: | \$7,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$7,500 |

| Co-Applicant – Project Budget | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | Grant Share (\$ requested) | Applicant | 3 rd Party Contributors | TOTAL | |
| | | Cash | In-Kind | | |
| 4.1 | Personnel / Labor: | \$0 | \$12,000 | \$7,500 | \$19,500 |
| | Fringe Benefits: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Travel: | \$1,500 | \$362 | \$0 | \$1,862 |
| | Equipment: | \$3,700 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,700 |
| | Supplies: | \$2,200 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,200 |
| | Contractual: | \$2,500 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,500 |
| | Construction: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Other: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Indirect Costs: | \$2,462 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,462 |
| | TOTAL: | \$12,362 | \$12,362 | \$7,500 | \$32,224 |

| Co - Applicant Information | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1.2 | State Forestry Agency: Nebraska Forest Service |
| | Contact Person: Dr. Scott Josiah |
| | Address: P. O. 830815 |
| | City/Zip Code: Lincoln, Nebraska 68583-0815 |
| | Phone (Work/Cell): 402.472.1467 / 402.805.7657 |
| | Email: sjosiah2@unl.edu |
| | Fax: 402.472.2964 |

| Co - Applicant Project Information | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------|---|
| 2.2 | Title of Project: | Forest Landowner Education Project: "Today's Forest" | | |
| | Partnering Agencies / Organizations: | Upper Niobrara White Natural Resource District, Nebraska Tree Farm System, Chadron State College, J&G Enterprise | | |
| | State(s): | Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota | Congressional Districts: | 3 |
| | Counties: | Sioux, Dawes, Sheridan | Forest Service Regions: | 2 |

| Co-Applicant – Total Leverage | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|-----|-----------------|
| 3.2 | 3rd Party Contributors: (Specify by name) | Upper Niobrara White NRD | Nebraska Tree Farm System | Chadron State College | J&G Enterprise | Lanowners | | TOTAL |
| | Value of Contributions: | \$725 | \$725 | \$725 | \$725 | \$7,500 | \$0 | \$10,400 |

| Co-Applicant – Project Budget | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| | Grant Share (\$ requested) | Applicant | 3rd Party Contributors | | TOTAL |
| | | | Cash | In-Kind | |
| 4.2 | Personnel / Labor: | \$4,300 | \$2,300 | \$7,500 | \$14,100 |
| | Fringe Benefits: | \$2,200 | \$1,150 | \$0 | \$3,350 |
| | Travel: | \$1,000 | \$3,000 | \$0 | \$4,000 |
| | Equipment: | \$3,700 | \$0 | \$0 | \$3,700 |
| | Supplies: | \$2,200 | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,200 |
| | Contractual: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Construction: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Other: | \$0 | \$0 | \$2,900 | \$2,900 |
| | Indirect Costs: | \$0 | \$7,344 | \$0 | \$7,344 |
| | TOTAL: | \$13,400 | \$13,794 | \$10,400 | \$37,594 |

| 1.3 | | Co - Applicant Information | |
|-----|------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| | State Forestry Agency: | | |
| | Contact Person: | | |
| | Address: | | |
| | City/Zip Code: | | |
| | Phone (Work/Cell): | | |
| | Email: | | |
| | Fax: | | |

| 2.3 | | Co - Applicant Project Information | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| | Title of Project: | | | | |
| | Partnering Agencies / Organizations: | | | | |
| | State(s): | | Congressional Districts: | | |
| | Counties: | | Forest Service Regions: | | |

| 3.3 | | Co-Applicant – Total Leverage | | | | | | | |
|-----|---|-------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| | 3 rd Party Contributors: (Specify by name) | | | | | | | | TOTAL |
| | Value of Contributions: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |

| 4.3 | | Co-Applicant – Project Budget | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|
| | | Grant Share (\$ requested) | Applicant | 3 rd Party Contributors | TOTAL |
| | | Cash | | In-Kind | |
| | Personnel / Labor: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Fringe Benefits: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Travel: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Equipment: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Supplies: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Contractual: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Construction: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Other: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Indirect Costs: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | TOTAL: | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |

| Co - Applicant Information | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.4 | State Forestry Agency: |
| | Contact Person: |
| | Address: |
| | City/Zip Code: |
| | Phone (Work/Cell): |
| | Email: |
| | Fax: |

| Co - Applicant Project Information | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 2.4 | Title of Project: | | | |
| | Partnering Agencies / Organizations: | | | |
| | State(s): | | Congressional Districts: | |
| | Counties: | | Forest Service Regions: | |

| Co-Applicant – Total Leverage | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| 3.4 | 3rd Party Contributors: (Specify by name) | | | | | | TOTAL |
| | Value of Contributions: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |

| Co-Applicant – Project Budget | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------|-------------|
| | Grant Share (\$ requested) | Applicant | 3rd Party Contributors | TOTAL | |
| | | Cash | In-Kind | | |
| 4.4 | Personnel / Labor: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Fringe Benefits: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Travel: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Equipment: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Supplies: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Contractual: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Construction: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Other: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Indirect Costs: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | TOTAL: | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |

| Co - Applicant Information | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1.5 | State Forestry Agency: |
| | Contact Person: |
| | Address: |
| | City/Zip Code: |
| | Phone (Work/Cell): |
| | Email: |
| | Fax: |

| Co - Applicant Project Information | | | | |
|---|---|--|---------------------------------|--|
| 2.5 | Title of Project: | | | |
| | Partnering Agencies / Organizations: | | | |
| | State(s): | | Congressional Districts: | |
| | Counties: | | Forest Service Regions: | |

| Co-Applicant – Total Leverage | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------------|
| 3.5 | 3rd Party Contributors: (Specify by name) | | | | | | | TOTAL |
| | Value of Contributions: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |

| Co-Applicant – Project Budget | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--|--------------|-------------|
| | Grant Share (\$ requested) | Applicant | 3rd Party Contributors | TOTAL | |
| | | Cash | In-Kind | | |
| 4.5 | Personnel / Labor: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Fringe Benefits: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Travel: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Equipment: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Supplies: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Contractual: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Construction: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Other: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | Indirect Costs: | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$ 0 |
| | TOTAL: | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 | \$ 0 |

Project Description

Maximum 10,000 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. – Please specify the components of the project that will occur in each state.

The purpose of this project is to develop a curriculum for educating private forest landowners about forest management in the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming, and the Pine Ridge area of Nebraska.

This project is needed because of limited availability of technical assistance; landowners sometimes reject professional recommendations to the detriment of the resource; landowners don't always recognize the need for forest management; absentee landowners often have little knowledge of local ecology, threats, markets, or other factors that affect their property and management decisions.

The project will begin with development of an electronic mail database to communicate with willing forest landowner participants. Those participants will be surveyed to determine the most popular methods of delivery (classroom, field, internet, etc.), timing (season, day of week), duration (half day, full day), cost (willingness to pay), sociopolitical concerns, forest health concerns, and future plans for property management and other subjects. The information gained from this survey will be used to guide development and presentation of the curriculum. Each training module will be followed by an evaluation to determine effectiveness. Following completion of the seven modules, another survey will be conducted to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the training. These surveys will be administered using the internet based Survey Monkey with participant instructions sent out via email.

Initial topics that will be developed into training modules will be: silviculture; forest ecology; firewise; forest health and invasive species; best management practices; estate planning and taxes; markets, contracting, and available program assistance. Additional topics may be added as a result of the survey. These modules will emphasize the need for comprehensive management planning through forest stewardship plans, and the importance of landowners working together across boundaries to accomplish landscape level management.

The training modules will be developed for presentation in the classroom, field, and on the internet. Classroom presentations will allow one-on-one contact between instructors and landowners with time for question and answer sessions, and discussion. Field presentations will reinforce classroom topics, demonstrate concepts, and show desirable outcomes.

The internet based presentation will serve two long term functions. It will provide reference for people who have attended the classroom and field training, and it will act as a source of information for absentee landowners and others who are unable to attend classroom and field training. The internet based presentations will be a combination of informational slides with the option to open short three minute professional quality video clips that will demonstrate or illustrate concepts. A counter will be set up on the module web site to record the number of hits and the number of times the course is completed. Various social media such as Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and webcasts will be investigated to determine the best mode or combination of modes for delivery, feedback, and interaction.

Two established educational models with proven track records will be used to formulate the training modules and their delivery. The highly successful Logger Education Program was begun in the Black Hills in 1994 and is still active today. Today's Ag is a highly successful internet based educational program available through South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension Service. Currently posted training sessions can be viewed at todaysag.sdstate.edu.

Grant funds will be used to build the landowner database, develop the internet based training modules and complementary field/classroom training sessions and enable their implementation, delivery and technical support. Funds will also provide supporting educational materials and aid the development and publication of a wood heating brochure summarizing the wood heating options available at different scales from residential to

commercial.

The target over the life of the grant is to reach 630 forest landowners through the classroom and field training modules. The internet based training will be available to anyone with internet capabilities. Our intent is to reach at least 2000 forest landowners through the internet based training. The classes will continue beyond the life of the grant with periodic updates to ensure information is timely. On-line training will also be updated as the classroom information is updated. Educational resources developed through this project will be available to other entities providing forestry education and outreach services for their use.

Public service announcements (PSAs) will be created supporting the modules. These public service announcements will be broadcast on television channels serving the Black Hills and Nebraska panhandle areas, and other applicable media in the three state area. In addition to the normal broadcast time offered by the television stations, commercial air time will be purchased to target the time periods most likely to reach the forest landowner audience. The television stations will match each 30 second spot purchased by a free 30 second spot during the same time frame. The PSAs are expected to reach at least 10,000 people, including both NIPF landowners and interested public.

The roles of each state will be:

South Dakota will be the lead state in this effort. SD will perform the following activities:

- Contract with all presenters for development and presentation of the training modules, except those indicated in the sections outlining the roles of Nebraska and Wyoming,.
- Contract for development and airing of the PSAs on the four television stations serving the target area.
- Develop the electronic mail database in conjunction with NE and WY, and complete the survey.
- Advertise and coordinate classroom and field presentation of the training modules in SD.
- Contract for production of supporting video for internet based modules.
- Contract for placement of training modules on the internet.

The States of Nebraska and Wyoming will each perform the following tasks in their respective states:

- Contract with presenters for development of modules that reflect tax issues for the respective states regarding the estate planning and taxation module.
- Assist with development of modules and educational materials.
- Assist with collection of addresses for the electronic mail database.
- Advertise and coordinate classroom and field presentation of the training modules in their respective states.

Measureable outputs from this project include:

- A database of email addresses for NIPF landowners.
- Survey results from NIPF landowners.
- At least seven training modules focusing on silviculture, forest ecology, best management practices, forest health/invasives, firewise, estate planning/taxes, and markets/contracting, and others depending on survey results.
- Reach 2630 NIPF landowners through a combination of classroom, field, and internet based training.

The outcomes from this project include

- A set of training modules that will be used to educate NIPF landowners in the management of their forest lands that will be applicable for many years.
- An internet based training program that will be accessible to absentee landowners, and that will provide a valuable reference to landowners on a regional and national scale.
- An educated private forest landowner base that will make informed management decisions, and take a proactive approach to managing their forest lands.
- Participation in forest management programs will increase such as Tree Farm certification, Forest Stewardship Program, forest landowner organizations, or other certification programs.
- Forest landowners will respect and heed the advice of resource professionals when making management decisions.

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| Program Integration | |
| 8 | <p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The landowner education program will integrate forest health, forest stewardship, urban community forestry, and fire and fuels programs. The value of comprehensive forest stewardship planning will be emphasized throughout the training; encouraging landowners to have management plans developed that address silviculture, forest health and fire issues, as well as other landowner objectives. Owners of forest parcels will learn the value and the importance of working together as a community to lower costs, and achieve common objectives across an area from the size of a subdivision, to the larger landscape.</p> <p>The target area has been identified as a high priority in the participating State’s Forest Resource Assessments, SAP analysis and Forest Stewardship Plans. Community Wildfire Protections Plans cover the project area in all three states. An active mountain pine beetle epidemic in parts of the Black Hills makes the area a high priority forest health concern. Forest fragmentation and expanding areas of wildland urban interface are exacerbating local management concerns.</p> |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Collaboration | |
| 9 | <p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The SD Department of Agriculture’s Resource Conservation and Forestry Division (RCF) and Wildland Fire Suppression Division (WFS) will work with the State Forestry agencies of WY and NE to develop and deliver forest management education modules to NIPF landowners in the Black Hills of SD and WY, and the Pine Ridge of NE. The SD Cooperative Extension Service will provide forestry outreach to landowners across SD including the Black Hills area. Extension will also be utilized to develop and coordinate presentation of the training modules, and posting of the modules on the internet. RCF and WFS will work with media outlets to develop the PSAs and obtain airtime. RCF will work with the State Energy Office to assemble information regarding the use of wood for heat. State agencies will work with Black Hills National Forest, Chadron State College, Upper Niobrara White NRD, J&G Enterprises, and local non-governmental organizations including the SD Family Forest Association, the Tree Farm Committees, Society of American Foresters, Firewise Projects, Conservation Districts, WY Small Acreage Team, WY BMP Committee, and the Black Hills Forest Resource Association, in the development, advertisement, and delivery of the training modules.</p> |

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| Leverage | |
| 10 | <p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project area is a focus for private forestry assistance and outreach efforts in three states, involving state and local governments and private organizations. This project will link and coordinate outreach efforts, expanding them beyond traditional boundaries and permit a connection with a larger audience. Land ownership, policy and management decisions are increasingly influenced by individuals, attitudes and factors outside the political and jurisdictional boundaries of state and local governments. The partnership broadens, enhances and builds on the resources and efforts previously developed by the individual partners, allowing a greater scope and level of contact than would be achievable individually.</p> <p>Contributions to this project will come from the SD Cooperative Extension Service, SD WFS, SD State Energy Office, media, and NIPF landowners. Extension will provide outreach, and expertise in the areas of media relations and production. Local media outlets will match purchased air time, and provide additional free air time for locally developed PSAs. Chadron State College, Upper Niobrara White NRD, J&G Enterprises, and NGOs in participating states will provide additional support and expand project visibility.</p> |

| Meaningful Scale | |
|-------------------------|--|
| 11 | <p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project focus is a geographic area with similar forest attributes, conditions, threats and issues of concern. The natural boundaries of this unit, isolated from other forested regions, lies within three states. The project partners have offices, staff, resources and active private forestry assistance programs dedicated to the project area. Rapid City is the largest urban area, and is the regional media hub. The internet based approach allows the project to reach populations such as absentee landowners which may not have been aware of or unable to participate in previous outreach programs. The long term availability of these resources on the internet will allow them to remain an asset to landowners, media, policy makers and managers at the local and national level. Internet social media such as Facebook, Twitter, and webcasts will be investigated to determine the best mode or combination of modes for delivery, feedback, and interaction between participants and instructors.</p> |

| Sphere of Influence | |
|----------------------------|--|
| 12 | <p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The focus of the training will be on the Black Hills of South Dakota and Wyoming, and the Pine Ridge area of Nebraska. However, the project approach and much of the subject matter will be applicable throughout the states in the Rocky Mountain West, and basic management principles will be applicable to forest lands anywhere in the country. The internet based training will be available to a world-wide audience. A short questionnaire will be included at the beginning of each internet based module to track information about the audience being reached by the internet training.</p> <p>The training will be available to resident forest landowners, absentee forest landowners, and people who don't own forest land, but are interested in learning more about forest management issues that forest landowners face.</p> <p>Reaching absentee landowners is a critical issue region wide. Large forest land holdings are being subdivided as ranchers age, and their children are either not willing or can't afford to continue the ranching lifestyle. The new landowners may not reside in the state or even country in which they own property and are frequently unaware of local ecology, issues, threats or resources available to them.</p> |

| Sustainability of Outcomes | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 13 | <p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>Empowering forest landowners to make sound forest management decisions about their forest lands is the best way to ensure private forest lands are managed to meet current objectives, and exist for future generations. The availability of information to a diverse and dispersed ownership group is critical to helping forest owners manage their lands.</p> <p>By offering the training modules in classroom, field, and internet based sessions; the program will reach a broad group of resident and absentee landowners, land managers, resource professionals, educators and policy makers. The resources and concepts developed for this project will be used by the participating states to expand individual forestry outreach and education programs and will be available for use by other states and organizations with applicable outreach and education functions.</p> <p>The landowner education will be offered on a continuing basis, beyond the life of the grant. Internet based modules and resources such as references, slides, photographs, audio, video and links will be maintained, updated and expanded as needed. It is anticipated that additional modules and resources will be developed by project partners and</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>other users after the initial project has been completed.</p> |
|--|--|