

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

Filename	
SD_Missouri.doc	
Administration Information	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$67,500
Matching Share:	\$69,300

Applicant Information	
State Forestry Agency:	South Dakota Department of Agriculture - Resource Conservation & Forestry
Contact Person:	Raymond A. Sowers, State Forester
Address:	523 E. Capitol Avenue
City/State/Zip Code:	Pierre, SD 57501
Phone (Work/Cell):	605.773.3623
Email:	ray.sowers@state.sd.us
Fax:	605.773.4003

Project Information			
Descriptive Title of Project:	Missouri River Breaks Forest Management (Southern SD)		
Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	Grant submitted on behalf of the Lower James and the Randall RC&D Councils. Other partners: SD Department of Agriculture – Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry; Conservation Districts; Private Landowners; Other Project Area Local Governments/Nonprofit Organizations; Private Businesses (Agricultural/Industrial, etc.); Natural Resources Conservation Service Field Offices (USDA); EPA, Section 319 Clean Water Implementation Projects,		
State(s):	South Dakota	Congressional Districts:	South Dakota
Counties:	Yankton, Bon Homme, Charles Mix, Gregory, Tripp, Brule, Buffalo, Lyman, Clay, Union	Forest Service Regions:	II

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)	Lower James,Randall RC&D	Conservation Districts	Landowners	Other Local/States		TOTAL
	Value of Contributions:	\$20,800	\$13,500	\$16,500	\$6,000		\$56,800

Project Budget					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant	Non-Federal Contributors	TOTAL	
		Cash ¹	In-Kind ²		
4	Personnel / Labor:	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$28,300	\$34,300
	Fringe Benefits:	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	\$4,000
	Travel:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Equipment:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Supplies:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Contractual:	\$59,500	\$4,500	\$28,500	\$92,500
	Construction:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Other:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Indirect Costs:	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$6,000
	TOTAL:	\$67,500	\$12,500	\$56,800	\$136,800

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>The goal of the “Missouri River Breaks Forest Management Project” is to provide forestry technical assistance to landowners to develop forest management plans on 7000 acres of private forest lands resulting in forest management for forest health, forest production and multiple land uses.</p> <p>The ten-county project area has over 120,000 acres of forest lands consisting of Missouri River floodplains and the steeply rolling Missouri River Breaks areas. A 2005 general forest resource inventory completed in eight of the ten proposed project counties (excluding Clay and Union Counties) by Randall and Lower James RC&D showed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> There were 110,500 acres of natural occurring forest resources in the ten-county inventory area dominated by hardwoods and these areas were located primarily in the Missouri River Flood Plain and the Missouri River Breaks. There appears to be little or no management of forest resources by private landowners due to lack of technical assistance and understanding by landowners and the public of forested land values. There appeared to be little regeneration of cottonwood and other hardwoods, with red cedar comprising 33% of the forest that has a dbh less than 4 inches. The utilization of red cedar would be secondary and require a long-term commitment by

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.

landowners to manage and utilize their forest resources. Red cedar encroachment is changing the natural wildlife habitat for indigenous wildlife, such as grassland songbirds.

5. Proper riparian area management is critical in the region related to water quality, native forest land health, recreation, wildlife habitat, flooding, invasive species control, and crop and livestock production. Private landowners in the area have seen the native trees deteriorate in health due to the lack of management while the red cedar encroaches into pastures, taking away grazing value for livestock as well as the habitat of indigenous wildlife. As these forests associated with the Missouri River continue to change (to include cedar encroachment), these changes produce new uses that are also beneficial (recreation, biomass for energy, etc.) to the landowners and the public.

A variety of interests are now offering financial assistance programs to forest landowners in efforts to benefit wildlife, water quality to include targeting riparian areas, wildfire suppression, and invasive species control (see section 9 and 10 on partnering/programs). The Lower James RC&D and partners are involved in assisting most of these organizations in their efforts. This project proposes to use the Lower James RC&D network of partners to bring a collaborative and more holistic approach to support private landowners in management of their land as forests through technical assistance from a forester. A forester will bring the needed expertise to develop the forestry management plans that make the programs offered fit the forest resources needs.

This project will conserve working forest landscapes through education and technical assistance to forest landowners that benefits 7,000 acres of forest land in the area through the following project outcomes:

- landowner development of 40 forest management plans on a total of 5000 acres (to include woody draw management).

- landowner development of 15 forest management plans on 2000 acres related to landowner participation in existing programs and projects that the RC&D's are involved in (Weed Management Area, Three Water Quality Projects, RC&F and Conservation District Riparian Forest Project, USD Cottonwood Project, and NRCS wildlife habitat special initiatives.

- landowners to assess and identify markets and forest product uses (especially biomass use) to create economic returns from implementation of a forest management plan.

- Completion of outreach to forest landowners to provide them information on technical assistance available and forest management goals and methods in the areas. The educational activities goaled include 3 landowner field days.

Through the planning and technical assistance component, plus the educational component of this project, the potential devastating effects of wildfires and the benefits of improving forest health and growth in the project area will be stressed, and preventative measures outlined.

There is currently an upsurge in recreational activities along the Missouri River. Hiking and biking trails and new campgrounds are being developed that contour the land along the river. We believe our goal of increasing the acreage of well managed forests will enhance public benefits. Some of these benefits include increased recreation, forest products and market development, an increase in forest health and fire resistance resulting in stand longevity, erosion control and water quality improvements, and an increase in wildlife habitat.

	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>This project will bring together existing efforts to manage forest lands and provide private landowners the needed technical assistance to plan and complete forest management. The following complementary programs will be supported by this project's technical assistance and informational outreach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Missouri River Conservation/Forestry Project: SD Department of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry (RCF). o SD Lower Missouri River Weed Management Area: Similar project area with collaboration on weed control and invasive species on forested grasslands and floodplain. o USDA Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program special project on red cedar management for indigenous wildlife habitat restoration. o Conservation Districts on shelterbelt and riparian area tree plantings. o Lewis and Clark, Vermillion, and Lower Big Sioux, Section 319 water quality programs to include riparian buffers and riparian management. o USDA Rural Energy Assistance Program (REAP) biomass development feasibility studies and projects. <p>Assistance to the projects listed above will include marketing and provide forestry technical assistance for forest management plans during implementation of their programs.</p>
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Collaboration	
9	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>Lower James and Randall RC&D's: Both RC&D's have worked to support forest landowners in the proposed project area for the past forty years.</p> <p>South Dakota RC&F: This project is designed to partner with the Division to secure needed technical resources for assistance to landowners in forestry planning, as well as a consultant for woody biomass feasibility studies.</p> <p>Conservation Districts: The conservation districts, based on landowner requests, have asked the Lower James and Randall RC&D's to lead efforts to improve management of the area's forest resources.</p> <p>Other Area Governmental and Nonprofit Organizations: Due to existing working relationships established by the RC&D's, and the project's association with the Missouri River, a multitude of local, state, and federal agencies will assist and become partners in this project.</p> <p>Private Landowners: Private landowners will serve on the project steering committee and be the key partners and the target audience for all educational and technical activities.</p> <p>Private Industry: Area businesses will provide support related to technical assistance for educational efforts, and participate in feasibility studies for their facilities.</p>

Leverage															
10	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Contributor Name</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Value of Contribution</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lower James/Randall RC&D Association, Inc.</td> <td>\$20,800</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SD DOA – RCF</td> <td>\$12,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conservation Districts</td> <td>\$13,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Landowners/Private</td> <td>\$16,500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Local/State</td> <td>\$6,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td>\$69,300</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Contributor Name	Value of Contribution	Lower James/Randall RC&D Association, Inc.	\$20,800	SD DOA – RCF	\$12,500	Conservation Districts	\$13,500	Landowners/Private	\$16,500	Other Local/State	\$6,000	Total:	\$69,300
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Meaningful Scale	
11	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>Working in a ten county area is vital to the success of this project because of past work completed covering this same area, such as the forest inventory talked about extensively above and the area being comprised of the Missouri River counties with similar River floodplain and breaks forests.</p> <p>The Randall and Lower James RC&D's are also providing extensive assistance to the SD Lower Missouri River Weed Management Area, which covers the ten project counties, are part of the project management teams for all three water quality projects who have full time staff and work closely with all conservation districts in the area on tree planting program funding. Area conservation districts are very familiar with the landowners, their attitudes and needs, and landowners in the project area are requesting assistance from conservation districts on forestry. The RC&D's have working relationships with all the agencies in the area that have an interest in the management of these forest resources along the river. A project steering committee has met to plan this forestry project representing landowners and local governments.</p>

Sphere of Influence	
12	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project will demonstrate the effectiveness of forestry technical assistance to assist landowners to choose forestry management options that meet their operational and environmental goals. Landowners currently face numerous options for forest land use and program participation along the Missouri River, such as grazing, biomass use, timber harvest, wildlife habitat, recreation and/or residential living, and will benefit from this project's forestry assistance.</p> <p>If landowners are successful with planning and implementing forest management when forestry technical assistance is available, then it should also be successful in other forested areas in the Central Plains.</p> <p>The regional approach to promote forest management plans on private lands will provide the framework for the organization of a regional forest landowners' association for continued lifelong learning opportunities, and increased use and acceptance of forestry management methods. Project activities will initiate the needed awareness of the public and landowners of the private and public benefits to management of the area's forested resources, and provide the ground work for continued management of forested land as a valued resource.</p>

Sustainability of Outcomes	
13	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p>