

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

Filename	
SD_Revitalization.doc	
Administration Information	
Dollar Amount Requested:	\$260,000
Matching Share:	\$269,962

Applicant Information	
State Forestry Agency:	South Dakota Dept of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry
Contact Person:	Raymond Sowers - State Forester
Address:	523 E Capitol Ave
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:	Community Forest Revitalization and Health Recovery Initiative		
Names of Partnering Agencies / Organizations:	SD Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD), SD Nursery and Landscape Association (SDNLA), SD Arborists Association (SDArA), Midwest Chapter of ISA, SD Municipal League, SD Game Fish and Parks		
State(s):	South Dakota	Congressional Districts:	South Dakota-At Large
Counties:	All	Forest Service Regions:	Rocky Mountain Region 2

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)	Municipalities	Private Donors	SDACD			TOTAL
	Value of Contributions:	\$150,000	\$50,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$0	\$210,000

Project Budget					
	Grant Share (\$ requested)	Applicant Cash ¹	Non-Federal Contributors In-Kind ²	TOTAL	
4	Personnel / Labor:	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$9,962	\$49,962
	Fringe Benefits:	\$9,365	\$9,365	\$0	\$18,730
	Travel:	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$10,000
	Equipment:	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	\$20,000
	Supplies:	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0	\$8,000
	Contractual:	\$200,038	\$0	\$200,038	\$400,076
	Construction:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$ 0
	Other:	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	\$10,000
	Indirect Costs:	\$6,597	\$6,597	\$0	\$13,194
	TOTAL:	\$260,000	\$59,962	\$210,000	\$529,962

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>South Dakota's community forests are facing a severe threat; EAB. Street tree inventories completed in 30 communities over the past 10 years indicate that nearly 37% of our street trees are green ash. Some communities have ash populations as high as 68%! Now that EAB has been discovered in St. Paul, MN, the highly destructive bug is in a state bordering SD and leaves little time before it reaches us. The second most common species of street trees is American elm. Since Dutch elm disease is still in our communities, we are in a position to potentially lose nearly half of the city street trees. SD Dept of Agriculture, Division of Resource Conservation and Forestry requests \$260,000 of Redesign competitive funds to prepare SD's communities for EAB by funding tree planting projects and educational seminars in local communities.</p> <p>SD is at a high risk of being affected by EAB. Aside from just our street trees, nurseries have indicated that ash species have been the most popular species sold in SD. That indicates the general public has been planting ash not just on our streets. What our street tree inventories don't show is the number of trees planted in city parks, cemeteries, and other right of way areas that are not city streets. We have good reason to believe ash species were used just as frequently in those areas as are used in the city street right of ways.</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.

Through the Multi-State Great Plains Tree and Forest Invasives Initiative we have set in place a community readiness and response plan. We've also conducted inventories in both rural and urban locations. The numbers reflect nearly the same percentages as our street tree inventories have. The rural portion has actually indicated a higher percentage of ash in shelterbelts, riparian areas, and general rural wooded areas. According to the USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station, SD has 11 counties where ash makes up over 40% of the tree population, three of which are 80% or greater.

With such a high percentage of ash species, SD communities must start preparing for the infestation of the EAB. Every year communities cut down more trees than are planted. These trees need to be replaced at a 2:1 ratio of trees planted to trees cut down. We do have the space for these trees, we do need additional green infrastructure in our communities, and we do need the trees to help clean our air of dirt, dust, and debris that roll across the prairie on the high winds. To implement a project of this magnitude we will utilize the state forestry Community Forestry team's goals and objectives as an initial base plan.

1) We will make funds available for all SD's communities to start replacing ash trees in the communities' parks, cemeteries, and right of ways. We will allocate \$50,000 a year over the 3 year timeline of this Redesign grant. These funds will be provided through a competitive grant system in cooperation with our existing community forestry challenge grant. For the community forest revitalization grant we will utilize the SD Community Forestry Advisory Council (SDCFAC) to approve the projects. These grants to communities will be provided at a 1:1 match by the community either in hard dollar or in-kind match. Removal of existing ash trees will be used as match. Preference will be given to Tree City USA communities, managing communities as designated by CARS, and communities with high percentages of ash.

2) We will provide educational outreach to community leaders and individual citizens by attending annual conferences for city leaders in the state. We will target mayoral, street managers, and city administrators conferences. We will attend trade shows which the general public attends. We will target various fairs which have high attendances and themed trade shows to spread the word of the threat of EAB; DED; and other threats to our community, traditional, and nontraditional forests. The more the citizens know about possible threats the more they can be proactive in their communities to initiate change.

3) We will run a marketing campaign which will have two components. The first component will be to put the message of EAB on billboards strategically located on the main corridors of the state entering from the east, north, and south. The second component will be to run PSAs on radio stations across the state. The message for the billboards and PSAs will warn people of the threat of EAB and how it can be moved in firewood.

RC&F, with funding through the Great Plains EAB Initiative grant from the USFS, has distributed over 3,000 EAB identification kits across the state. We have given 21 presentations to city councils, forestry boards, and the general public on EAB. We have put together a readiness/response plan to implement the moment EAB is detected in our state. We have been and are working with conservation districts, RC&D's, and other planning boards to limit the use of ash in rural plantings. We need to move into the next phase which is changing the makeup of our community forests.

This is a crucial point in SD's timeline of EAB infestation. As it has not been detected yet in the state; it's only a question of when it will be detected. By funding this project it would allow us to get a jump start on replacing the community forests in SD. It allows us to get out on the road to get the message out to the community leaders and general public about the importance of diversifying the community forests.

	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The CF revitalization project will successfully integrate S&PF programs by utilizing Forest Stewardship Program (FSP) Spatial Analysis Project (SAP) to identify high priority locations in the state where green ash are most common. As mentioned before we are utilizing findings from the Great Plains EAB initiative and will continue utilizing the findings as long as the project is on going. We will also integrate non-traditional programs such as taking part in family trade shows and fairs, and working with marketing groups to help us spread our message as effectively as possible.</p> <p>Although each component is relatively independent, together they comprise an integrated approach to meeting the diverse educational needs of the public; community leaders, school children and their teachers, and the general public. The program as a whole promotes environmental literacy and partnership building designed to increase public understanding of the benefits provided by trees and forests and build support for managing community forests to secure those benefits.</p>
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Collaboration	
9	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project’s extensive collaboration with private and public partners results in healthier community forests. Project partners and collaborators have a long history of working with the Forestry Division to manage community forests across the spectrum from the public to private lands. The SD Association of Conservation Districts (SDACD) along with the SDNLA will partner up to spread the knowledge of diversifying our community forests. This will reduce the number of ash plantings in this state by reducing the number sold in our nurseries and discouraging conservation plantings to utilize ash.</p> <p>We have chosen partners who are as invested in our community forests as we are. We will utilize their professional expertise to achieve our goals of successful tree plantings and the education of the public. Their contributions include hard dollars, in-kind services, technical expertise, prioritization, and implementation of project components. We want to work with partners who will be investing in the health of our community forests and nontraditional forests as much as we are. Through these partnerships we can change the face of SD’s landscape for generations to come.</p>

Leverage	
10	<p>Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces</p> <p>The project leverages funds, resources, and programs to develop and sustain community forestry programs throughout the state. This project will leverage in-kind services and hard match from our partners and the state of SD. We also hope to leverage these Redesign grant funds to gain dollars from non-profits, local businesses, and private foundations.</p> <p>By offering money in a competitive grant form we will be leveraging money from communities, associations, and non-profits across the state. Money could be leveraged from private citizens contributing to individual community projects. When providing these types of grants we hope to stoke advocacy for these programs and leverage funds we cannot foresee.</p>

11	Meaningful Scale
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Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces
 The project is statewide with targeted focus. With the tree replacement program we want to target the communities that have the infrastructure available for this type of planting, communities that have high percentages of green ash, managing communities as designated by CARS, and Tree City USA communities.

With the education and outreach portion we plan to target a diverse demographic of people. We will target non-traditional trade shows, such as recreational sports shows and fairs. We will target general contractors conferences, municipal league street managers conferences, and mayoral associations. The basic motivation behind targeting non-traditional audiences is to get the word out about the importance of community forests, trees, and what the threats to them are. The more people we reach out to, the bigger effect we will have on the state.

Sphere of Influence

12 **Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces**
 This program can easily be duplicated in other states for other reasons. The underlying themes of this project is to conserve working forest landscapes by replenishing our community forests before they disappear, to mitigate water runoff, and reduce heat island effect; to protect forests from harm by replanting the community forests across SD with species other than ash; and to enhance public benefits from trees and forests by educating the public to all the benefits tree provide to us not just in traditional forests but in the non-traditional forest such as community forests as well.

States across the country are all facing various threats to both traditional and nontraditional forests. EAB is on the front line of these threats; however, Asian long-horned beetle, thousand canker disease, gypsy moth, mountain pine beetle, and American chestnut blight are others that linger over communities and territories. All of these pose a potential large threat to the areas in which they inhabit. This model can be use in any of the areas that stand to lose canopy cover.

Sustainability of Outcomes

13 **Maximum 1250 Characters Including Spaces**
 The successful outcome of this project will be SD communities will still have community forests with decent canopy coverage after EAB has run its course through the state. By replanting our community forests now, before EAB arrives, we will be providing future generations with canopy coverage that we will never see the full benefits from.

Through attending various trade, craft, and home shows across the state and spreading the word of the threat EAB poses to our communities and general community forestry information we hope to spark change in communities. We will know if we are successful in this by increasing the number of Tree City USA communities, communities conducting inventories, or possibly just applying for a CF challenge or tree planting grant.

We hope to slow the spread of EAB into this state by the means of billboard advertisement and places for people to exchange fire wood that has been brought in from outside of the state. Through PSA and billboards we hope out-of-state travelers will leave wood at the border to be disposed of; therefore slowing the spread of EAB.