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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS For Cooperative Weed Management in Forested Areas in Arizona 2011—EXTENSION OF DEADLINE

ARTICLE I. STATEMENT OF WORK

The Arizona State Forestry Division (Division) is currently seeking project proposals for a grant program that supports management of invasive noxious plants on woodlands and forests in Arizona. The US Forest Service has provided funds specifically to control noxious weed invasions that threaten forested or woodland areas on state and private lands in Arizona. Funding for the program is administered through the Division on a cost-share basis. A primary goal of the program is



to increase local capacity to manage and prevent invasions of noxious weeds through Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA). These organizations have been shown to be the best vehicles for implementing weed management programs. Therefore, the program emphasizes the use of existing CWMAs or the creation of a new CWMA.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) for the grant program is directed to communities, local governments, non-profit organizations & educational institutions interested in setting up projects that will treat noxious weed invasions in forests and woodlands, on **state and private lands** in Arizona.

Projects should principally involve invasive plant species found on the Arizona Noxious Weed List (see <http://www.azda.gov/PSD/quarantine5.htm>). However, projects involving invasive plant species not on the State's noxious plant list may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Regardless of the targeted weed species, proposed projects to control noxious weeds in forests or woodlands under this program should demonstrate an integrated weed management (IWM) approach. IWM involves careful consideration of management alternatives such as mechanical practices (hand weeding, burning, etc.), biological controls (plant-attacking insects) or chemical applications (herbicides) on a cost-effective basis.

The proposal should also identify how planning, coordination, mapping/inventory, monitoring, and evaluation will be accomplished for the duration of the project.

Priority for funding will be given to proposed projects that **target & treat** invasive plants that are capable of transforming plant communities in forests or woodlands; and, infesting non-Federal lands or road corridors of State, County, municipal, or private entities that can affect **National Forests or National Grasslands**.

Components of a project may include early detection, prevention, suppression, vegetative restoration, and public awareness/education.

Successful projects typically include several cooperating landowners, including private, State, Federal, and tribal lands. Proposals that demonstrate partnerships (especially with a CWMA) in treating and monitoring invasive noxious weeds will also receive priority. Projects that propose to treat lands adjacent to National Forest System (NFS) lands or will complement NFS projects for treatment of invasive plants may also be used as a factor in the selection of projects.

Successful grant applicants will be required to complete a Final Accomplishment Report on the projects funded at the end of the final grant year. The Arizona State Forestry Division will withhold ten percent (10%) of the final grant funds pending receipt of the final financial and narrative reports.

The Final Accomplishment Report should address: **(a)** weed species targeted, **(b)** project location(s), **(c)** methods of treatment and evaluation, **(d)** the number of acres mapped, treated, and monitored, **(e)** funding expenditures, and **(f)** project scheduling.

ARTICLE II. PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Please submit your proposal using the accompanying **2011 Invasive Plants Grant Application**. Proposed projects will be evaluated based on how the project correlates with program goals and objectives, given 100 possible points as outlined below:

- 1) Problem Statement - Provide a clearly written statement of the problem with noxious invasive weeds in the targeted forest or woodland area(s) and your integrated weed management (IWM) approach for treatment, with goals and objectives clearly stated (25 points possible).
- 2) Methodology – Briefly describe your project’s strategy: (25 points possible)
 - a. Measurable activities and tasks, including weed species to be addressed.
 - b. Who will perform the work---Counties, CWMA, volunteers, etc.?
 - c. Time frame for completion.
 - d. Monitoring plans to track results (can be qualitative or quantitative).
- 3) Program Budget – Include cost sharing and sources (20 points possible).
- 4) Partner Organizations – Name each organization that has agreed to play an active role in the accomplishment of the project and indicate what that role is (15 points possible). Also, please briefly discuss the current status of the CWMA in your area (if present) and how the proposed project will interact with the CWMA for the duration of this grant cycle.

- 5) Project Longevity/Maintenance - Clearly explain how long the project will take and how it will be maintained over time (15 points possible).

The **project sponsor** (Applicant) and the **contact person** must be clearly identified. All correspondence will be addressed to the contact person. When listing partnerships, please provide (a) the name of any participating agency and (b) the name of the person who will represent the agency for the purpose of this project.

Applicants must provide matching funds in dollars, in-kind services or both. The program requires a **Non-Federal** cost share match of **50-50**.

A minimum grant request of **\$20,000 to a maximum of \$150,000** is required for this proposal.

ARTICLE III. CONTRACT DURATION

The contract period shall extend from the date of approval by the Arizona State Forestry Division, for a maximum of two years, beginning in Federal fiscal year 2011. Grant extensions may also be approved if necessary.

ARTICLE IV. CONTRACT TERMS

A contract may be awarded in accordance with the terms of the COOPERATIVE FORESTRY PROGRAM INVASIVE PLANTS (SPS5) GRANT AGREEMENT and this RFP and the accompanying 2011 INVASIVE PLANTS GRANT APPLICATION.

ARTICLE V. NOTICES

Award of agreements is contingent upon sufficient appropriations and authorization being made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Arizona State Forestry Division.

This RFP may be cancelled and any and all proposals may be rejected when it is in the best interest of the State of Arizona.

ARTICLE VI. CONTACT PERSON AND PROPOSAL DEADLINES

Questions regarding this RFP should be addressed to: Bob Celaya, Arizona State Forestry Division, Office of the State Forester, 1110 W. Washington, Suite 100, Phoenix, Arizona 85007. Phone: 602-771-1415.

Grantees should submit one (1) copy of the proposal to the address above, no later than **5 PM FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2011**. Proposals received after this date will not be accepted. Proposals may be sent by email to: bobcelaya@azsf.gov