



MEMORANDUM

File Code: 3000-4

To: State Foresters
Forest Service Regional Foresters, Area Director, IITF Director and SPF Leadership

Date: August 3, 2010

Re: State and Private Forestry Competitive Allocation Cross Area Proposals

We are entering our fourth year of the Competitive Resource Allocation, initiated with State & Private Forestry Redesign, and further codified in the 2008 Farm Bill. Projects have shown great strides in innovation and addressing issues across all landscapes. Over time, the Competitive Grant Areas (Northeast, South and West) have refined their processes to evaluate both single- and multi-state project proposals within their jurisdictions. Recently, the Redesign Implementation Council— now called the State & Private Forestry Board (SPFB)—approved an evaluation process for proposals that cross multiple Competitive Grant Areas. The process is described below:

- Cross-area proposals (CAPs) are to be evaluated as one whole project, rather than state-size pieces.
- CAPs are evaluated on their own merits within the scoring system of one Competitive Grant Area, and are not given any special treatment or consideration.
- The CAP evaluation process does not call for any new policies or authorities in order to be implemented successfully.
- More collaboration among states, USFS Regions/Area and Competitive Grant Areas will lead to a higher degree of success in competition and project implementation.
- As issues arise during the process that do not call for changes in policy, the Competitive Grant Area evaluation teams may make the necessary decisions to resolve them.

The general CAPs evaluation process is as follows:

- States from different Competitive Grant Areas come together and decide they would like to submit a competitive grant proposal.
- The States and USFS Regions /Area involved decide to which Competitive Grant Area they will submit one proposal. As a general guideline, the project would be submitted for evaluation to the Competitive Grant Area that has the *largest amount of funds* within the proposal. Collaboration at this stage (*before the final proposal is written and submitted*) is critical to success. All involved Competitive Grant Areas should be made aware of the project proposal so that collaboration and discussions of timelines can occur.

- In accordance with the evaluation process in the chosen Competitive Grant Area, the proposal is either recommended for funding, or not recommended for funding.
 - **Not Recommended for Funding** – The recommendation is shared with the involved Competitive Grant Areas' evaluation teams. The project does not move forward as a Cross area proposal.
 - **Recommended for Funding** – The recommendation is shared with the involved Competitive Grant Areas' evaluation teams for concurrence, and so they can add the recommended funding to their mix. The evaluating Competitive Grant Area is only providing a project proposal score and making a recommendation. Final funding determinations are communicated to the USFS WO as in the past.

We are hopeful that this process will enhance opportunities for landscape scale projects, while streamlining the review and coordination process.

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