

Agenda Item No:	B
Title and # of Issue:	Forest Vitality - Issue #3
Objective # & Title:	Objective 1: Develop forest policies that ensure the sustainability of Oregon's forest resources while improving the forest sector's long-term contribution to national, state, and local economies. <i>Federal Grant Proposal</i>
Date of Presentation:	September 5, 2007
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SUMMARY

The Department requests Board approval to apply for a federal grant through the U.S. Forest Service's State and Private Forest (S&PF) Program redesign process. The redesign process is allocating 15 percent of the funds in the S&PF program through a competitive process. Previously, The Forest Service allocated these funds on a formula / performance based approach. These funds provide the primary source of support for forestry assistance, urban forestry, and community fires assistance. Grant proposals for this process have an October 1, 2007 deadline for submission.

CONTEXT

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) have assembled a State & Private Forestry (S&PF) Redesign Board to review current trends affecting trees and forests and to consider the most effective roles for state and federal government in sustaining forest benefits. The purpose of a new approach to S&PF is to shape and influence forestland use on a scale and in a way that optimizes public benefits from trees and forests for both current and future generations.

An increasing percentage of S&PF funds will be competitively disbursed according to national program guidance and desired outcomes. The competitive process will be conducted through USFS/NASF efforts in the Northeast, Southeast, and West. Initial competitive allocation processes (target: 15% of S&PF funds) will be adopted in 2008. The amount of competitively allocated funds is targeted to increase by 10% each year for the next 5 years.

The new competitive allocation of 15 percent of funds, previously allocated to the Department on a formula basis, represents a challenge and an opportunity. Because of the competitive nature, the Department's directives require approval from the Board of Forestry and Legislature. While the process puts 15 percent of funds at risk, the Department has the opportunity to increase funding available to meet the goals of the *Forestry Program for*

Oregon. Because of the accelerated timeframe for the 2008 fiscal year process, final proposals will be completed and submitted prior to the next Board of Forestry meeting.

BACKGROUND

In response to the redesign process, the Department created a grant transition team to respond to the fiscal year 2008 competitive process. The grant transition team includes members from the private forest, urban forestry, protection from fire, resource planning, and business services programs and representatives from each field area. The team developed a process and timeline for responding to FY 08 grant process. The team will solicit 1-page pre-proposals (pre-proposal request and form attached). The pre-proposals request will be sent to operating program directors, district foresters, unit foresters, and district grant coordinators. Grant team members and Department staff submitting pre-proposals will contact appropriate stakeholder groups, other Oregon agencies, and other state agencies

On July 23, 2007, the Department received the 2008 State and Private Forestry Competitive Resource Allocation packet. On July 25, 2007 the team sent out the Department's request for pre-proposals, with due date of August 15.

NEXT STEPS

On August 15, 2007, the Department will begin review process of pre-proposals. The Department will select the set of pre-proposals to be developed into full proposals for submittal to the competitive process.

On September 1, 2007, the Department will notify pre-proposal coordinators if pre-proposal selected for full proposal development. The grant transition team will work with proposal coordinators to develop full proposals. The Team will also prepare final information for grant approval by Legislature.

On September 17, 2007, the Department will begin review of full proposals and coordinate with submitters to make any needed changes. The Department, as required by the competitive process, will rank final proposals. Subject to approval by the Legislature, the Department will submit to Western Competitive Grant review team on September 28, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION

The Department requests Board approval of submission of competitive grant proposals to the U.S. Forest Service's State and Private Forest (S&PF) Program redesign process.

ATTACHMENT

- (1) U.S. Forest Service and National Association of State Foresters, Redesign Briefing, June 2007