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Arizona State Forestry Division

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For Cooperative Weed Management in Forested Areas in Arizona 2008

ARTICLE I. STATEMENT OF WORK

The Arizona State Forestry Division (Division) is currently seeking grant proposals to provide for management of invasive plants on state and private lands in Arizona for the purpose of protecting forest health. The USDA Forest Service has provided funds for an invasive plants program designed specifically to address management efforts in areas where noxious weed invasions threaten forested or woodland areas. The program provides cost-share funding from the USDA Forest Service, administered through the Division, for coordinated efforts to control noxious weeds in local areas. 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 have been shown to be the best vehicles for implementing weed management programs. Therefore, the program emphasizes the use of an existing CWMA or the creation of a new CWMA.

Grant proposals for the invasive plant program are specifically requested to address noxious weed management in Arizona forests and woodlands. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is directed to individuals and organizations involved with a Cooperative Weed Management Area that can develop a proposal addressing any or all of the following components:

- Prevention and early detection
- Inventory and mapping
- Eradication or control
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Information and education
- Planning

Projects should involve invasive plant species found on the Arizona Noxious Weed List (see <http://www.azda.gov/PSD/quarantine5.htm>). The highest priority will be given to proposed projects that target noxious weed species on the list that are prohibited or restricted and are capable of transforming plant communities in forests or woodlands. Proposals that demonstrate partnerships (especially CWMA) in treating and monitoring invasive noxious weeds will also receive priority. Regardless

of the targeted weed species, weed control projects should utilize an integrated weed management approach that carefully considers management alternatives such as mechanical practices (hand weeding, burning, etc.), biological controls (plant-attacking insects) or chemical applications (herbicides) on a cost-effective basis.

ARTICLE II. PROPOSAL EVALUATION CRITERIA

Projects shall be evaluated based on how the project categories correlate with program objectives, given 100 possible points as specified below:

Please submit your proposal on the accompanying **2008 Invasive Plants Grant Application**.

- 1) Provide a clearly written statement of the problem and your approach to the problem, with clearly stated goals and objectives (25 points possible).
- 2) Briefly describe your methodology: (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 to complete.
 - 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).
- 5) Project Longevity - Clearly explain how the project will be maintained over time (15 points possible).

Successful projects typically include several cooperating landowners, including private, state, federal and tribal lands. The **project sponsor** (Applicant) and the **contact person** must be clearly identified. All correspondence will be addressed to the contact person. When listing the partnerships, please provide the name of any agencies that will be participating and the name of the person who will be representing the agency for the purpose of this project. Another function of this grant is to foster the growth and developments of CWMA in Arizona. **In your application**, please discuss the current status of the CWMA in your area and what steps have been taken to ensure that it continues to be in operation past the duration of this grant cycle.

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 request of **\$25,000** is required for this proposal.

Successful grant applicants will be required to complete a report on the projects funded through this grant at the end of the 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.

ARTICLE III. CONTRACT DURATION

The contract period shall extend from the date of contract approval by the Arizona State Forestry Division for a maximum of two years.

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 2008 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,

For assistance specifically with the noxious weed list, contact the Arizona Department of Agriculture at 602-542-0955.

Grantees should submit one (1) copy of the proposal to the address above, no later than 5 p.m., September 19, 2008. Proposals received after this date will not be accepted. No exceptions will be made for proposals not received at the above address by the appointed time. Proposals **MAY NOT** be sent by facsimile or e-mail.