

## **Request for Proposals (RFP)**

### **Los Angeles County Weed Management Area American Reinvestment and Recovery Act Funding:**

#### **Prevention, Early Detection, and Eradication of Noxious and Invasive Weed Populations on Non-federal Public and Private Lands Near Forested Lands**

**September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

The Los Angeles County Weed Management Area is requesting proposals from individuals and groups to implement invasive plant prevention, early detection, and control projects throughout Los Angeles County on non-federal public and private lands. There is \$90,000 of federal stimulus funds available. Projects must be “on-the-ground” work: funding can be applied to the eradication, management, and characterization (mapping) of weed infestations.

Education/outreach and research, including leading to the development of treatment techniques, CANNOT be funded at this time – however, proponents for these kinds of projects are encouraged to participate as a member of the WMA, a good venue for hearing about other funding opportunities. Proposals that address the leading edge of an infestation new to Los Angeles County are encouraged. Project work can commence as early as January 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 and must be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2012, though a detailed plan for follow-up activities after that date can strengthen a proposal. Project budgets should be between \$10,000 and \$90,000 for between 1 and 9 projects. No matching funds are required, but matching funds or other evidence of the commitment of the project sponsor and/or landowner will strengthen a proposal.

#### **Projects must include the creation or maintenance of jobs.**

#### Eligibility:

Any group or individual doing weed work within L.A. County is applicable. Projects CANNOT take place on federal land however. Current or prior participation in the WMA is **not** required, but the applicant should plan to participate in quarterly WMA meetings during the life of the project, and to give a presentation on the project at or near its completion if selected for funding.

#### Proposals due date:

Proposals must be submitted electronically via e-mail to [grants@lacountywma.org](mailto:grants@lacountywma.org) by 12pm (PST), November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009. If e-mail will not work for you, you may upload the required documents via the website at <http://www.lacountywma.org/grants.html>. Late proposals and proposals that do not follow the format as demonstrated in this RFP will NOT be accepted.

#### What a proposal must include:

Each proposal shall include the following two documents and may include a supplementary map. The required documents (work plan and budget) must be created using the electronic example templates:

1. Proposed work plan (Microsoft Word document – 3 page, single-spaced limit. Do NOT include photos or maps in this document)
2. Proposed budget (Microsoft Excel spreadsheet)

3. Supporting materials (maps and/or photos should be placed in a separate Microsoft Word document or PDF – 6 megabytes maximum)

Annual Reporting: An annual report and monthly invoices will be required. Annual reports are due by January 30<sup>th</sup> of each year following the initiation of the contract.

Invoicing: Invoicing will be required on a MONTHLY basis. No exceptions.

Funding Amounts and Cost-sharing: The minimum budget request is \$10,000 and the maximum amount request is \$90,000 for the entire two year project period. No cost-sharing is required but projects that have cost-sharing will receive additional points in the scoring (see proposal scoring below).

Allowable Administrative Costs: No administrative costs are allowed.

Criteria for Selection:

We will examine eight areas when scoring proposals:

1. Location (in Los Angeles County, adjacent to federal lands)
2. Containment: Is the proposed project controlling the leading edge of highly invasive infestations that are moving into the County? Containment projects must define a leading edge of invasion and treat populations outside of this no-spread line. A regional map of known populations must be supplied to define the project.
3. Job Creation: Projects MUST create or sustain jobs.
4. Habitat type: Project areas that have been identified in planning documents as an Ecologically Significant Habitat Area (ESHA), Significant Ecological Area (SEA), or contains any of the following types of species: state or federally listed as threatened or endangered, State or Federal Candidate (Threatened, Endangered, Species of Special Concern), or California Native Plant Society Rare, Threatened, or Endangered will receive additional scoring points (see proposal scoring below).
5. Additional Project Benefits: Projects with ecological, safety, social, recreational, or public education benefits will receive additional scoring points.
6. Capacity of Lead Group: The lead group must demonstrate the ability and experience to carry out the project as described.
7. Project Readiness: The proposal must demonstrate that the project is ready to proceed. For example, environmental compliance must be complete, necessary mapping in hand, and control techniques known.
8. Project Outcome: The proposal should clearly identify what the project outcomes will be. We will evaluate the following factors in this category: likelihood of success, stated goal, and follow-up/long-term outcome.
9. Cost Effectiveness: This criteria examines the efficiency of the proposed project with respect to removal of invasive species and job creation. Factors to be evaluated include number of acres controlled/dollar and number of jobs/dollar.

Proposal Scoring:

Proposals will be evaluated prior to and during the Los Angeles County Weed Management Area quarterly meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup>. WMA members will review the applications and score each project according to the nine criteria listed above. In addition, 20 points out of 100 will be

allocated based on the collective opinion of the group of the individual proposal in comparison to other submissions. Criteria will be scored as follows:

<p><b>Location</b>  Proposed invasive plant mapping and control projects <u>must</u> take place in Los Angeles County. Exceptions will be made for <i>control projects</i> if the site is immediately adjacent to or upstream of Los Angeles County and the control efforts will protect the County from future invasions.  Project is within or adjacent to wildland(s), riparian corridor(s), or other open space setting=5pts; Project is within an urbanized setting=1pt;  Project is adjacent to federal lands= 5 pts  Project is on private lands=3pts</p>	<p>13 points</p>
<p><b>Containment</b>  Is the proposed project controlling the leading edge of highly invasive infestations that are moving into the County or removing incipient populations?  Project is controlling a leading edge = 10 pts OR  Project is treating incipient populations that have the potential to be highly invasive in the county = 10 pts</p>	<p>10 points</p>
<p><b>Job Creation</b>  Does the proposal create or maintain jobs?  Proposal creates or maintains jobs = 5 pts (number of jobs created is evaluated in efficiency criteria)</p>	<p>5 points</p>
<p><b>Habitat Type</b>  Is the project in an identified area of ecological significance or contains T and E or sensitive species?  Project is in identified ESHA or SEA OR contains T and E OR sensitive species = 10 pts</p>	<p>10 points</p>
<p><b>Additional Project Benefits</b>  Does the project provide additional benefits such as viewshed protection, enhanced recreation, erosion protection, ground water protection, etc? Additional Benefits categories include (2 points per category):  Ecological Benefits – project positively affects existing environmental restoration projects, or protects intact vegetative communities from invasion  Social Benefits – project helps to protect residents, recreation areas, etc from catastrophic flood, fire or other event, provides ground water protection, etc.  Regional benefits: project meets local and Regional Invasive Plant control goals and objectives  Educational benefits: project provides public education benefits  Other: project provides other benefits enumerated in the proposal</p>	<p>10 points</p>
<p><b>Capacity</b>  The lead group has a demonstrated ability to successfully carry out weed control projects. The group has established:  a. partnerships with other organizations/groups to complete and maintain the project. <i>(Scoring: YES=2pts, NO=0pt)</i>  b. partnerships with adjacent landowners (or determined no presence of target species to assure comprehensive treatment of the target species. <i>(Scoring: YES=2pts, NO=0pt)</i>  c. Long-term funding and/or labor to assure maintenance of the project for 5 years from the end of the grant. <i>(Scoring: YES=2pts, NO=0pt)</i></p>	<p>8 points</p>

<p>d. Existing capacity and a history of successful completion of similar projects. (<i>Scoring: YES=2pts, NO=0pt</i>)</p>	
<p><b>Project Readiness</b>  Proposal will be evaluated to ensure that project is ready to begin. The following factors will be examined (2 points per completed factor):  Completed work plan showing timelines, milestones, and who will do work.  Environmental Compliance - documented completed environmental compliance (NEPA, CEQA etc.)  Logistics - all logistics identified and planned  Mapping – do you have clear information about where the infestations you are planning to treat are and how they relate to the rest of the population? Mapping can be paper maps, GIS layers, photos, etc.</p>	<p>8 points</p>
<p><b>Project Outcome</b>  The following three factors will be evaluated (2 points each)  <b>Likelihood of success</b> - proposed project has a high likelihood of achieving the stated goal following the methods and approach described in the proposal.  <b>Stated Goal</b> – stated goal of the project is eradication of a species from a watershed, region, or county.  <b>Follow-up/Long-term Outcome</b> – project plan ensures that the project outcomes will be stable over the long-term. Goal seems achievable within the project.</p>	<p>6 points</p>
<p><b>Cost Effectiveness</b>  Projects will be ranked according to the number of acres protected per dollar and the number of jobs created or maintained per dollar. For each category (acres or jobs) the top third of the projects will receive 5 points, middle third 3 points and bottom third 1 point. With five points available in each category (acres or jobs) there is a total of ten points available.</p>	<p>10 points</p>

Questions regarding the proposal should be directed to [info@lacountywma.org](mailto:info@lacountywma.org).