

American Forest Foundation
Request for Proposals
2009 – Effect of State & Local Taxes on Family Forests



American Forest Foundation

INTRODUCTION

The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a 501c3 non-profit organization committed to creating a future where North American forests are sustained by a public that understands and values the social, economic, and environmental benefits that private family forests provide to our communities, our nation, and our world.

The American Forest Foundation's research grants program aims to fill gaps in our understanding of how the social, economic and ecological dimensions of public policies impact family forests. AFF will use the knowledge gained from the program to help develop and advance policies that improve the sustainability of America's family forests.

2009 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The 2009 AFF Research Grant will focus on how state and local forest tax policies impact family forests in all 50 states. Applicants should take an interdisciplinary approach and form teams of experts from relevant fields to explore the issues and develop recommendations for tax policies. The award will be made in June, 2009 and research should be completed by December 2010.

Grantees are encouraged to take creative and innovative research approaches to explore how different tax policy approaches impact the sustainability of family forests. However, all proposals should explain how the proposed research will:

1. Compare and contrast existing state and local tax policies in all 50 states (e.g. preferential tax programs, conservation tax credits, etc.);
2. Analyze the historic and projected impact of state and local tax policies on family forest ownerships; and
3. Identify and recommend promising tax policy options that would encourage intact family forest ownerships at the landscape level.

BUDGET

The American Forest Foundation will make one award of up to \$110,000 to support this research grant. Applications must submit a budget for proposed direct costs (including travel to AFF Research Partners Meeting). Indirect costs may comprise no more than 15% of the total proposed budget.

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DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The Principal Investigator will, at a minimum:

1. Develop a white paper that communicates the research findings at a technical level;
2. Develop a family forest owner-friendly article for use by AFF describing research findings; and
3. Present research findings at an annual meeting of the AFF Research Partners.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Proposals: Narrative proposals should be no more than five pages in length and should describe:

1. The Principal and Co – Investigators’ experience and interest in the policy issue;
2. The qualitative and quantitative methods that will be used to explore the issue;
3. How the basic question will be expanded and what additional questions will be explored; and
4. How the proposed research will help develop policies that sustain America’s family forests.

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS TO PROVIDE:

- Completed cover page (Available at www.forestfoundation.org/research)
- Abbreviated (no more than two pages) CVs of Principle Investigator and others involved in the seminar
- Proposed budget

Submissions Due: An electronic copy of all proposal materials must be sent to ddeberry@forestfoundation.org and mmunford@forestfoundation.org by 5PM on Thursday May 28, 2009.

AFF will acknowledge receipt of all proposals through an email to the Principal Investigator.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Selection of the winning proposals will be based on the following factors:

- Clarity and feasibility of how the proposal will generate results
- Qualifications of Investigators
- Potential value of research findings
- Budget

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Proposals will be reviewed by a panel of experts from within and beyond AFF, and awardees will be notified no later than June 15, 2009.

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON GRANT CONTRACT

Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants should ask their grants office to review the 2009 AFF Grant Contract for this award. The contract is non-negotiable. If the contract is not acceptable for the selected organization, AFF will make the award to a suitable alternate if one exists.