**Forest Health Protection (FHP) REQUEST FOR**

**WHITEBARK PINE RESTORATION PROJECT PROPOSALS
FY 2024**

**RELEASE DATE:**  October 30, 2023

**CLOSING DATE:** Proposals must be e-mailed to the address on form no later than **December 15, 2023**

This request for proposals is for *Whitebark Pine Restoration Program* funding. Allocation of funding will be determined by current priorities and needs within the program. **Funds will need to be spent or obligated prior to September 30, 2024**.

State, non-governmental organizations, universities, tribal and other federal agencies may apply for funding and may need to meet specific cost share requirements. All projects must list a local U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Protection (FHP) contact who is responsible for assuring the project is complete and that reporting requirements are met. For assistance in identifying a local FHP contact, please contact a Regional FHP whitebark pine representative:

Region 1: Christy Cleaver (christy.cleaver@usda.gov)

Region 2: Kelly Burns (kelly.burns@usda.gov)

Region 4: Dan Ott (daniel.ott@usda.gov)

Region 5: Danny Cluck (daniel.cluck@usda.gov)

Region 6: Blakey Lockman (irene.lockman@usda.gov)

**Whitebark Pine Restoration Request for Proposals Procedures**

We are requesting brief proposals describing projects that will help enhance or restore whitebark pine throughout its range in the United States. Because of this restoration objective, projects should emphasize on the ground management activities or applied research. Restoration proposals should fit into one of six focus areas listed below. Proposals must be submitted using the attached form in MS Word and are limited to **3 pages or less**. All spaces on the form should be completed. In addition, please fill out the separate attached spreadsheet with information from your proposal.

**A progress or final project report for all funded projects is required and due by November 15, 2024.** These reports will be uploaded to the web site <http://database.whitebarkfound.org/> for information sharing. *New proposals will not be considered if prior year reports are not received*.

**Project Focus Areas**

**A.** *Assessing Health: Survey and Monitoring*

Projects that will help determine forest health conditions of whitebark pine in areas that have little or no data, or help monitor changes in whitebark pine abundance or health over time. For monitoring projects, there will need to be a long-term commitment to re-measure permanent plots with other funding sources.

**B.** *Operational Cone Collections*

Cone collections for regeneration purposes (this is different than plus tree cone collections which is in focus area “C”). Trees should be pre-screened for blister rust resistance or phenotypically resistant.

**Note:** *Proposals for Gene Conservation, Resistance, and Restoration is separate funding and should be submitted to your Regional Geneticist and Sky Stephens (**stephanie.s.stephens@usda.gov**); a call letter should be issued in spring. If additional funding is needed to cover operational whitebark pine cone collections in the same area and during the same trip as gene conservation collections, respond to this request for the additional funding needed, noting that Gene Conservation funds have also been requested for the same area.*

**C.** *Harnessing Rust Resistance*

Plus tree selection and cone collections, scion collection, and rust screening. Projects that will help identify rust resistance in different whitebark pine seed zones.

**D.** *Enhancing Regeneration and Reducing Competing Vegetation*

Projects that will enhance the vigor and survival of existing whitebark pine (such as thinning or daylighting), encourage natural regeneration (such as release cuttings), or involve growing and out planting seed or seedlings.

**E**. *Other Projects*

Projects that will provide information about whitebark pine ecology, white pine blister rust epidemiology in whitebark pine, or other issues related to whitebark pine restoration. Includes applied research proposals.

**F.** *Education/outreach/technology transfer*

Projects specifically designed to increase awareness of whitebark pine issues and restoration needs or disseminate technology to improve restoration methods.

***Priority will be given to projects that help restore whitebark pine on the ground.***

 (**NOTE**: *Projects requesting verbenone or insecticide spray treatments for protection from mountain pine beetle attack should be submitted to the appropriate FHP Region as Prevention, Suppression, and Restoration proposals instead of Whitebark Pine Restoration proposals. Whitebark Pine Restoration funding is NOT available for NEPA. NEPA must be completed before the start of the project.*)

**Project Evaluation Criteria**

Proposals will be reviewed and evaluated with emphasis on the criteria listed below.

*Scope of project (Objectives, Background and Scope,10 pts):* Clearly justify this proposal for restoration efforts.

* Address local, landscape, or range-wide needs/questions, etc.
* Link this proposal to restoring whitebark pine
* List any previous progress on the proposal
* If available, indicate acres proposed for treatment as a percent of total whitebark pine acres on the management area or district.
* Describe any urgency for this proposal (i.e. does it tie to other work in progress, have a unique opportunity, etc.)
* Explain any coordination between this proposal and similar proposals to the advantage of restoration

*Technical Merit (Methods,10 pts):* Describe the activities to be accomplished and the methods to be used.

* Methods should be detailed, clear, realistic, and appropriate
* Indicate awareness of similar work and data collection methods
* Data collection should follow standardized methods
* If applicable, explain how data will be analyzed (include statistics)
* Clearly list what will be needed to get the project completed (Planning, coordination with key players, contracts, etc.)

*Measures of success (Timeline, 10 pts)*

* Timeline must be clear and realistic
* Has NEPA been completed?
* Project must be implemented or funds committed in FY 2024
* If there are any risks that could affect the timeline or desired outcomes (lack of burn window, cone crop etc.), describe possible alternatives to complete the project with awarded funding.
* What is the likelihood for overall success of the project?

*Results/outcomes/products (10 pts)*

* Clearly identify the project’s expected deliverables: results/outcomes/products
* What will be learned from results and how will this information be used or shared?

*Budget and Cost Efficiency (5 pts).*

* Provide a clear itemized budget that identifies all costs for this project.
* Include the amount and source of in-kind or contributed (matching) funds for FY 2024 and describe what they will accomplish.
* Is the budget realistic?
* Does the project take advantage of cooperators and partners or previous expenditures?
* Identify at what level this project could be partially funded, if appropriate.

See proposal form below.

***For other information or questions regarding the Whitebark Pine Restoration Program contact:***

Christy Cleaver (christy.cleaver@usda.gov; (C) 208-215-6014), Plant Pathologist, U.S. Forest Service Regions 1 & 4 Forest Health Protection. The National program contact is Sky Stephens (stephanie.s.stephens@usda.gov; (C) 202-527-4914), National Entomologist, U.S. Forest Service, Forest Health Protection, Washington Office.

**PROPOSAL FOR WHITEBARK PINE**

**FY 2024 RESTORATION PROJECT FUNDS**

**Due December 15, 2023**

**Using the following format, briefly describe the proposed project** (fill in all spaces, add lines as necessary but do not exceed 3 pages). *Submit electronically (in MS Word) along with your information on the attached spreadsheet to* ***Candee Wilfong (***candee.wilfong@usda.gov***)***

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| --- | --- |
| **Project Title**: | **Focus Area** (list one from cover letter): |
| **Location**: | **Size of Treated Area** (Acres or number of trees): |
| **Project Contact** (Name, Affiliation, Address, Phone number, **e-mail**): |
| **U.S. Forest Service Forest Health Protection Contact** (who has been contacted prior to proposal submission): |
| **(This section is for Non-U.S. Forest Service entities only)** **Funding/Grants Contact from the Requesting Entity** (Name, Affiliation, Phone number, e-mail) |
| **Specific Objective(s)**: |
| **Scope & Background**:  |
| **Methods**: *For* ***Planting*** *projects include: planting density; technique for planting (e.g. using nurse logs, etc.); rust resistant seedlings Y/N; unique opportunity (e.g. post-fire, seedling availability, etc.)**For* ***Operational******Cone Collection*** *projects include: locations; blister rust resistance level (%); test evaluated (e.g. location and test dates or rust screening cycle) or state phenotypic selections of untested donor trees; number of cone bearing trees; distance between cone-bearing trees (feet); urgency (wildfire, good cone crop year, etc.); and need (e.g. replenishment of nursery seed inventory, direction from Regional Geneticist, etc.)**For* ***Thinning or Daylighting*** *projects include: pre-treatment densities* |
| **Basic Timeline of Activities** (include any monitoring): |
| **Expected Results/Products/Outcomes**: |
| **Cooperators** (Name and affiliation of others taking an active role in project): |

**Funding Requested**:[**Estimate costs requested and other contributed or matching funds** (include in-kind contributions)]. Identify if any part of the project could be completed with partial funding. With limited funding, requested salaries should be for seasonal help with permanent salaries contributed. Due to Budget Accounting Modernization (BAM), funds cannot be requested to cover salary or travel of U.S. Forest Service employees.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **$ Requested** | **$ Contributed**  | **Description** |
| Salary  |  |  |  |
| Travel |  |  |  |
| Supplies/Equipment |  |  |  |
| Contract Costs |  |  |  |
| Other (specify) |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |