

Q&A for Redesign Competitive Process Addressing Eligible Activities

All competitive proposals need to comply with existing S&PF authorities, and therefore the following questions and answers clarify if specific activities are or are not allowed within the S&PF authorities.

Question: Can a competitive project proposal include activities on state land or other nonfederal public lands?

Answer: Forest health and fire-related activities can be included as part of the competitive project. Stewardship-related activities need to be conducted on private lands; however, activities on state lands can be leveraged in the overall project area, but not within the S&PF funded component (federal dollars and associated cost share). Urban forestry activities can include lands owned by local communities.

Question: Can a competitive project proposal include research activities?

Answer: Research related activities cannot be included in the competitive proposal. However, technical transfer, education, and outreach associated with research can be included in the proposal, and a research entity could be included as a partner, with their contribution leveraged in the larger project proposal, but not within the S&PF funded component (federal dollars and associated cost share).

Question: Can a competitive project proposal include road construction or improvement activities?

Answer: Road construction and improvement activities cannot be included in the competitive proposal. None of the S&PF authorities allow for the construction or improvement of roads, even if the road construction or improvement supports other activities that are within S&PF authorities.

Question: Can a competitive project proposal include the protection/purchase of lands or interest in lands (conservation easements)?

Answer: The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act, through the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), provides the Forest Service authority to work with States to permanently protect private forests through the purchase of lands or interests in lands (conservation easements). However, FLP is not one of the programs that fund the competitive resource allocation process. Therefore, permanently protecting private forests through the purchase of lands, or interests in lands (conservation easements), cannot be included in the competitive proposal.