USDA
United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Health Protection

Technology Development for the Biological Control of Invasive Native and Non-Native Plants

Proposal Instructions and Program Guidelines

Forest Service

Biological Control of Invasive Native and Non-Native Plants (BCIP) Proposal Guidelines

Overview

Invasive plants are one of the major threats to the ecological integrity, biological diversity, and productive capacity of the Nation's forest and rangeland ecosystems. Tens of thousands of acres are newly infested annually by the growth of established invasive plant populations as well as by newly introduced invasive plant species. Federal, State, and private agencies need to form partnerships and coordinate the development of technologies to adequately address the spread and impacts of invasive plants.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service developed a National Strategic Framework for Invasive Species Management. This Framework provides a consistent, agency-wide approach to the prevention, detection, and control of invasive species. The Framework incorporates a new Invasive Species Systems Approach (ISSA), developed to provide a coordinated response to invasive threats, both native and non-native, over time. The ISSA identifies four key program elements: (1) prevention, (2) detection, (3) control and management, and (4) restoration and rehabilitation. The need continues to develop biological control technology to manage widespread infestations, and wherever possible, to use biological control as a central feature in invasive plant management and restoration efforts. Biological control is a proven cost effective and target-specific strategy that has been used extensively to manage invasive plants.

Forest Health Protection (FHP) has provided technical assistance for each of the four program elements for invasive plants. FHP participation emphasizes developing and implementing new technologies in collaboration with researchers and transferring these technologies to land managers.

The FHP Forest Health Assessment and Applied Sciences Team (FHAAST) Biological Control Program supports the Forest Service Strategy by providing technical and financial assistance in the development and transfer of technologies aimed at increasing the use of biological controls.

Priority Projects

FHP/FHAAST is currently requesting proposals for innovative projects that will advance the development of technology related to plant biological control. Original innovative pilot projects as well as proposals to expand existing technologies are strongly encouraged. Successful proposals will directly address the following priorities.

1) Developing improved rearing, host range testing, distribution and post-release monitoring techniques for a biological control agent
2) Development and/or implementation of technologies for monitoring/assessing plant trends and quantitative assessment of biological control impacts
3) Integrated weed management with a biological control component that is part of a methods development approach to determine efficacy and is not considered an operational treatment
4) Development of biological control strategies through funding of pilot projects

Project proposals must be submitted **through BCIP Regional Representatives** (contact information below) by October 18, 2019. Please submit your project proposals, using the BCIP New Project Proposal form available on the FHP Grants website (https://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/grants.shtml) for funding consideration. BCIP Regional Representatives will forward the proposals to Vanessa Lopez (BCIP National Program Manager) for evaluation by the Technical Evaluation Panel. Additional question can be addressed to Vanessa Lopez; vanessa.lopez@usda.gov, phone (202) 570-9764 . USDA-ARS and APHIS facilities are eligible to apply.

BCIP Evaluation and Funding Process

The Biological Control of Invasive Plant Technical Evaluation Panel (BCIP Technical Evaluation Panel) (**Attachment 1**), was formed to promote, facilitate and provide national/regional leadership, and to identify and prioritize national/regional technology development biological control projects for invasive plants. It is intended that the BCIP Technical Evaluation Panel will improve the coordination and accountability of biological control of invasive plant projects and facilitate the development and transfer of additional biological control technologies to land managers.

Proposals will be reviewed by the BCIP Technical Evaluation Panel. Evaluations will be based on scientific merit and the probability of a timely success. Proposals involving restricted geographical areas (e.g., a single state) will not be rated as highly as those involving broad geographical areas (e.g., multi-state). Proposals that fail to include the required information (as specified in the fillable BCIP New Project Proposal Form located on the FHP Grants website), will not be ranked. Multi-year projects that are currently being funded by the FS, ARS or APHIS can NOT be funded by this request for proposals unless a written statement is provided supporting the need for supplemental funding.

The duration of projects may extend a maximum of three years, but total funds requested should not exceed $100,000 per proposal. Yearly technical and financial progress reports are required for all projects.

Projects will be funded as Cooperative Agreements. Indirect costs may be included as part of the cost sharing or matching. Minimum cost share contributions is 50/50 which is a dollar-for-dollar match of federal and non-federal funding.

You are encouraged to include a representative on the BCIP Technical Evaluation Panel as a **contact** for your technology development proposal. The BCIP **contact** will be responsible for submitting your proposal to the BCIP National Program manager and monitoring the progress of the cooperative agreement. If a BCIP Technical Evaluation Panel member is listed as a **cooperator** (not a contact) he/she can rank your proposal but the score will **not** be used to calculate an average ranking.

Any questions about the proposals or the processes should be directed to Vanessa Lopez (vanessa.lopez@usda.gov, 202-570-9764).

Attachment 1 – BCIP - Technical Evaluation Panel

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Attachment 1 – BCIP - Technical Evaluation Panel (continued)

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Attachment 1 – BCIP - Technical Evaluation Panel (continued)

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