

- 1) A Sustainable Forests Report companion product, along the lines of Multiple Perspectives that summarizes significant outcomes and meaningful trends between the two national reports. It will represent a diversity of stakeholder views and is not intended to be a Roundtable consensus statement

[TIMING: Scoping in Feb 2008, begin implementation with the release of draft National Report, and complete with release of final National Report.]

- 2) A multi-media presentation that highlights the results from Indicator # 44 - Importance of Forests to People. This new indicator is of a much more qualitative nature and offers a unique communication opportunity to connect people to forests; and

[TIMING: Begin Aug-Dec 2008 to scope out project; complete in 2010 with release of final 2010 report.]

- 3) A report that discusses “Sustainable Forests – Next Steps” after the 2010 report is released. This will involve a workshop incorporating a futuring exercise illuminating consequences of current trends with a specific emphasis on recommendations to federal, state, and county decision and policy makers.

[TIMING: Begin in 2010 with release of Sustainable Forests report; complete in 2011 in conjunction with the International Year of the Forest.]

Values and Benefits of Proposal.

- Broadens and deepens public appreciation and understanding of sustainable forest management, at the general level as well as in key regions of the country.
- Leverages existing multi-sector infrastructure and public expenditures with private investments to deliver value-added products.
- Provides a venue for stakeholders promoting collaboration and shared learning to develop applications for sustainable forest management on the ground ... a subject that is often fraught with gridlock and controversy.
- Develops consensus for specific recommendations for sustainable forests to federal, state, and country decision and policy makers that reflect contemporary forest ownership, science, uses and values.
- Aligns RSF and national activities to effectively enhance and build upon upcoming events in 2010-11 such as the World Forestry Congress (2009), the release of the National Report on Sustainable Forests (2010), and the International Year of the Forest (2011).
- Provides a model for global leadership for sustainable forests.

Basic Organizational Information: The Roundtable on Sustainable Forests

(<http://www.sustainableforests.net/>) engages federal, state, private, and non-profit organization leadership in a collaborative forum intended to build capacity within the forest sector to promote sustainable forest management on public and private lands in the United States. The RSF is not a decision-making body, but rather a voluntary open forum that believes **better data** will lead to **better dialogue** about the sustainability of the nation’s forest resources, which will in turn lead to more informed, **better decisions** by stakeholders. It is primarily funded by the USFS, with facilitation support by the Meridian group. An Executive Leadership

Team provides the overall leadership for the RSF and is comprised of two co-chairs: one from a federal agency with substantial program responsibilities that encompass forests, and one from the non-federal public or private sector. The current federal co-chair is Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief for the National Forest System, USDA Forest Service. Dick Brinker, Dean and Professor, Auburn University School of Forestry and Wildlife Sciences, and Jim Finley, Professor of Forest Resources, The Pennsylvania State University School of Forest Resources, share the co-chair responsibilities. A Core Group serves as an informal steering committee for the RSF, comprised of 12-18 members who have committed to a higher level of voluntary participation (Annex 3).

Proposed Budget

Term: We are requesting \$704,000 for a 24-month term. The budget sheet shows individual project elements (i.e., Importance to People Video, Multiple Perspectives, Futuring Exercise, and Graduate Student). Each project element covers a two year period and has subtotals. The total budget estimate is given as well as total annual costs (See Attachment 1).

Personnel: The Project Lead and Communications Specialist as well as a graduate student stipend are for two years. The Project Lead supervises the Communications Specialist and graduate student, coordinates projects and project teams, and ensures deadlines are met. Benefits are set at 30%.

Year one the Project Lead will work with project teams to initiate Multiple Perspectives and the Futuring Exercise projects. The focus for the first year is on conceptualizing the Importance of Forests to People video and coordinating a videographer. The Project Lead will also collaborate with the graduate student's advisor regarding their Master's project. In year two the Project Lead focus shifts from the video to the Futuring Exercise and Multiple Perspectives projects, specifically presenting findings at appropriate venues and professional meetings.

The Communications Specialist will produce all marketing materials for the projects, organize project meetings, write and distribute news releases to appropriate media, research political outlets and venues for presenting project results, collaborate with the meeting facilitator, and ensure project information is current on the Roundtable website.

Travel: Project Lead and/or Communications Specialist to attend project and Roundtable meetings. Average domestic trips costs are estimated at \$1000, including hotel, meals, and airfare (i.e., 10 trips for the Importance of Forests, 7 trips for Multiple Perspectives, and 10 trips for Futuring Exercise). It also includes domestic and international travel to present project findings at the Montreal Process Criteria and Indicator at technical meetings as well as national professional meetings.

Equipment: Purchase three laptops one for the Project Lead, Communications Specialist and graduate student as well as two LCD projects for project meetings.

Supplies: This is minimal covering incidental paper, pens, and other office materials. **Note** office expenditures including office space rental, furniture, and larger equipment (e.g., fax machine, printer, phones) are not included in the budget. These costs may represent match from participants or be provided by the administrative institution for the grant..

Other direct costs: Include meeting facilities, printing, DVD copies/advertising, tuition, consulting services, and communications. Meeting facilities are projected at \$1,000 per plenary meeting and \$2,000 for plenary with 2 breakout rooms. The Multiple Perspectives and Futuring Exercise projects require more face-to-face meetings. The Project Lead and project teams will determine the type and frequency of meetings based on the budget allotment.

All projects will produce education/information pieces. The Futuring Exercise and Multiple Perspectives will produce special reports, white papers, or policy papers. The Importance of Forests to People video will require a marketing brochure for the video. The video will be duplicated, advertised, and distributed to appropriate outlets and audiences.

Consulting services: Video production and facilitation services. A professional film production company will tape interviews, nature scenes, and urban forests, as well as edit and produce the final video. The facilitator will assist with meetings. The projects will involve communication expenses including mail, postage, phone, and internet access. However, the host or administration organization may provide communication services for the Project Lead and Communications Specialist.

Administrative Fees: Set at 10% of the grant.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this letter of inquiry.