

Evaluation Monitoring New and Renewal Proposal Instructions for FY 2012

Forest Health Monitoring (FHM) is a cooperative program that enables the early detection and evaluation of changes in forest health conditions on all ownerships. The Evaluation Monitoring (EM) component of FHM is designed to determine the extent, severity, and causes of undesirable changes in forest health identified through Detection Monitoring using aerial and ground surveys, permanent plots, and other means (see: <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/em/index.shtml>). Projects funded through EM delve into the extent, severity, and/or causes of forest health problems.

Project Proposals for new and continuing projects should be submitted by **September 30, 2011** to the FHM Regional Managers: Jim Steinman for Northeast FHM Region (jsteinman@fs.fed.us), Manfred Mielke for Northcentral FHM Region (mmielke@fs.fed.us), Dale Starkey for Southern FHM Region (dstarkey@fs.fed.us), Jeri Lyn Harris for Interior West FHM Region (jharris@fs.fed.us), or Alison Nelson for West Coast FHM Region (asnelson@fs.fed.us). The FHM Regional Managers will, in turn, forward their top selected proposals to the Washington Office by **November 1, 2011**. A template for project proposals is attached to this document.

Projects will be selected through two separate competitions reflecting funding source: Base EM and Fire Plan EM. Regional FHM Managers are responsible for ranking projects from their respective regions and submitting two separate proposal packages including the top three new Base EM and top three new Fire Plan EM proposals, along with progress reports and proposals from continuing projects, to Borys Tkacz, the National FHM Program Manager (btkacz@fs.fed.us). Individual proposals will be evaluated by a National Panel for either Base EM or Fire Plan EM, but not both, as specified in the packages received from Regional FHM Managers. Funding for the Evaluation Monitoring program depends on specific appropriations. Twenty two projects are expected to request continuing funds in FY 2012.

Base EM Project Competition:

The purpose of a Base Evaluation Monitoring project is to investigate issues or concerns identified in the Detection Monitoring phase of FHM. Proposed projects should be 1-3 years in duration. Successful projects will help to explain the extent, severity, and/or cause of a phenomenon that has already been observed in the survey and/or permanent plot components of Detection Monitoring. Based on current analyses of forest health indicators tracked through the FHM program (see the FHM National Technical Reports and State Highlights posted on the FHM website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/foresthealth/fhm/>), we would be particularly interested in project proposals dealing with the following:

- Climate change – effects on forests or forest pests;
- Drought – deviations from normal precipitation and related effects;
- Validating or filling data gaps in insect & disease risk models;
- Tree mortality – deviations from expected levels;
- Poor crown conditions – deviations from normal;
- Air Pollutants – effects of sulfate and nitrate deposition and ozone;

- Soil conditions – including forest floor depth, compaction, and erosion and chemistry;
- Fragmentation – effects of fragmentation of forest cover;
- Down woody material – impacts on carbon budget and wildlife habitat.

Information on specific Regional forest health issues and concerns is available from the Regional FHM Program Managers.

Each FHM Region may submit three new Base EM proposals for consideration by the National EM Panel. Proposals will be evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Linkage to FHM Detection Monitoring-- the need for the project should arise from an analysis of FHM survey data and/or Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plot data;
2. Significance in terms of the geographic scale;
3. Biological impact and/or political importance of the issue;
4. Scientific basis/feasibility - likelihood that the project will be successfully completed.
5. Priority issues addressed as listed above.

Please make sure these criteria are specifically addressed in your proposals.

Fire Plan EM Competition:

The purpose of a Fire Plan Evaluation Monitoring project is to investigate and explain the extent, severity, and/or cause of a fire-related phenomenon that has been observed in the Detection Monitoring components of FHM. General target areas are use of FHP survey or FIA plot data to address Fire Plan issues. For information about the National Fire Plan please see: <http://www.forestsandrangelands.gov/resources/overview/index.shtml>. Proposed projects should be 1-3 years in duration. We encourage project proposals dealing with the following:

- Climate change – effects on frequency or severity of fires;
- Fire risk and fuel loading;
- Ecological impacts of fires;
- Invasive species – insects, diseases and plants (especially impacts on natural fire cycles and fire-adapted ecosystems);
- Restoration or fire-damaged ecosystems.

Each of the five FHM regions may submit three new Fire Plan EM proposals for consideration by the National EM Panel. Proposals will be evaluated using on the following criteria:

- Linkage to FHM Detection Monitoring- the need for the project should arise from an analysis of FHM survey data and/or Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plot data relative to fire issues stated above or found in the National Fire Plan;
- Significance in terms of the geographic scale;
- Biological impact and/or political importance of the issue related to fire;
- Scientific basis/feasibility - likelihood that the project will be successfully completed within 1-3 years, with some immediate products in the first year and each year thereafter;
- Priority issues addressed as listed above.

Please make sure these criteria are specifically addressed in your proposals and that there is a clear, obvious link to Fire Plan issues.

General Requirements:

Proposals should follow the attached template and be no longer than three pages (including cost information). Proposals should address data availability. Any projects requiring access to Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plot coordinates should be discussed with Regional FIA work units or Liz LaPoint (email: elapoint@fs.fed.us) from the Spatial Data Services of FIA prior to submission of proposals. The budget must include all overhead or other indirect costs going to the Region or Area, or to cooperating institutions. Projects on non-federal lands need to show non-federal contributions of 50% of the total project costs (1:1 match).

Continuing Proposals:

Previously funded, multi-year proposals from prior years will be given priority if the investigators have reported sufficient progress by submitting annual requests for continuation by September 30, 2011. Proposals for continued funding of multi-year projects should include a progress statement (within the three-page limit).

Reporting Requirements:

The FHM Management Team requires that results and progress reports for all national competition EM projects be summarized in posters presented at the annual FHM Working Group meeting. Upon project completion, investigators will submit to the respective FHM Regional Managers a detailed final report, and a 2-5 page executive summary that will be published in the annual FHM National Technical Report. Any publications resulting from these projects should acknowledge funding provided by the US Forest Service Forest Health Monitoring program.

TITLE:

LOCATION: <Geographic location of project>

DATE: <Of original submission and progress report>

DURATION: Year X of X-year project **FUNDING SOURCE:** <Base or Fire Plan>

PROJECT LEADER: <Name, affiliation, phone number, email address of principal investigator>

COOPERATORS: <Names and affiliations>

FHP SPONSOR/CONTACT: <Name, location, phone number and email address>

PROJECT OBJECTIVES: <What are specific project objectives?>

JUSTIFICATION: < How does the project address each of the following Evaluation Monitoring selection criteria?>

- a. **Linkage** to FHM Detection Monitoring- the need for the project should arise from an analysis of FHM survey data and/or Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) plot data;
- b. **Significance** in terms of the geographic scale;
- c. **Biological impact** and/or political importance of the issue;
- d. **Scientific Basis/Feasibility** - likelihood that the project will be successfully completed;
- e. **Priority Issues** addressed from Request for Proposals.

DESCRIPTION:

a. Background: <Brief description of the project including scientific basis.>

b. Methods: <Brief description of methods including data availability.>

c. Products: <Brief description of anticipated products.>

d. Schedule of Activities: <Listing of major activities & timelines>.

e. Progress/Accomplishments: <Brief description of progress/accomplishments for multi-year projects.>

COSTS: < Budget estimates for each year of project.>

	Item	Requested FHM EM Funding	Other- Source Funding	Source
YEAR				
Administration	Salary			
	Overhead			
	Travel			
Procurements	Contracting			
	Equipment			
	Supplies			
	Total			