SPECIAL REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Northeastern States Research Cooperative:
Research for the Northern Forest
2015 Graduate Research Assistant Grants
Proposals due by 4:00 pm on August 1, 2015

This is an RFP for a special grant competition for University of Vermont faculty to support one-year funding and related expenses for Graduate Research Assistants. Funds are available for a limited number of one-year Graduate Research Assistantships (up to $10,000 for salary and related expenses) to supplement and stimulate existing research related to the Northern Forest. Proposals from UVM Principal Investigators currently supported by NSRC funds will be considered, but preference will be given to projects that have not received NSRC funding in the recent past. Proposals that facilitate graduate student participation in collaborative research projects and produce practical and applied results are especially encouraged. Proposals should originate from and be submitted by UVM faculty as research project mentors or advisers and should specify a currently enrolled or accepted graduate student. Limit of one proposal per Principal Investigator. Projects must have a clear research focus and well-articulated research methodology. Successful proposals must expend the grant funds by May 31, 2016. It is anticipated that 5 to 6 awards will be granted.

The NSRC is committed to practical applications of research that lead to outputs (data, guidelines, manuals, recommendations, reports) that can be used directly by end users to generate immediate, beneficial outcomes (changes in practice and behavior). Publications and presentations in professional venues are acceptable outputs but may be less likely to lead to desirable short-term outcomes. The proposed research must be aligned with and relevant to the core mission of the NSRC. Proposals are solicited that will support research and implement outreach focused on sustainable and integrated solutions to the social, economic, and ecological challenges of the communities, businesses, and working landscapes in the Northern Forest. More information can be found at http://www.nsrcforest.org. NSRC will disseminate research results and contact information for funded projects via the web and through other outreach mechanisms.
PROPOSAL APPLICATION FORMAT AND PROCESS
Northeastern States Research Cooperative:
Research for the Northern Forest
2015 Graduate Research Assistant Grants

Proposals due by 4:00 pm on August 1, 2015

Special note: UVM Principal Investigators who currently have NSRC awards and are delinquent with terms of their current award, such as reports, are not eligible to apply to this RFP until their outstanding award terms have been met.

Proposal may be submitted to NSRC Theme One for one-year support of a graduate student research assistantship or up to $10,000. Participation in this competition is open to UVM faculty. The Northeastern States Research Cooperative is supported by funding from USDA Forest Service. In accordance with USDA guidelines, indirect charges may not be charged on project budgets submitted by Principal Investigators from Land Grant institutions. Indirect charges will be limited to 20% for non-land grant institutions. Matching funds are encouraged.

Proposal submissions will be reviewed through an anonymous peer-review process. We expect a rapid decision process with anticipated award start dates of August 31, 2015. Funds must be fully expended by May 31, 2016.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Format
Proposal submissions shall be on 8.5” x 11” format with 1” margins and 12-point font with no more than 6 lines per inch (standard line spacing for 12-point font). Submit an electronic version to the contact listed below on or before 4:00 pm on August 1, 2015.

Kate Baldwin
The Rubenstein School of Environment
And Natural Resources
George D. Aiken Center
The University of Vermont
81 Carrigan Drive
E-mail: kate.baldwin@uvm.edu
Phone: 802-656-1362

Required information for proposal includes:

Cover Page (one page)
- Project Title
- Lead Principal Investigator* (Name, Institution, Address, Phone, E-mail)
- Co-PIs, Cooperators, and Other Participating Institutions (with contact information)
- Name and contact information of Graduate Student to be supported by funds
- Total Amount Requested, not to exceed $10,000 per proposal
- Indicate whether any portion of proposed research is currently funded by NSRC
Project Narrative (no more than three pages)

- Logical Project Justification and Relevance. This includes the requirement to place the proposed work in the context of the Northern Forest and NSRC priorities as well as any relevant, previous, NSRC-funded projects, whether awarded to the PI or not.
- Focused Project Goal and Supporting Objectives. Normally there should be only one goal, which will identifiably benefit Northern Forest communities in some way. The objectives, if achieved, should clearly lead to the achievement of the goal.
- Clear Research Approach and Methodology. Describe methods and approach and if models are proposed, provide a brief description of the model.
- Explicit Expected Products, Outputs, and Outcomes. At least one substantial and tangible product or output should be identified. It is understood that outcomes are harder to achieve, but the potential for any outcome should be identified and explained where possible.
- Project Timeline.

Project Budget (one page)
Include budget justification and a budget table. Justification should address each budget item. If these funds are to be used to support a larger ongoing project, then include information about the overall research project and how these proposed funds for graduate student support will be applied. List and describe match funding if match funding is included. Proposed funds can be used for direct support (salary), travel, supplies, equipment, etc. and PI must plan to expend awarded funds by May 31, 2016.

Supporting Documentation
Include a one-page Curriculum Vitae (CV) of Lead Principal Investigator and all Co-PIs and a one-page CV of the Graduate Student proposed for Theme One NSRC funding.
Additional appendices of figures/tables are not allowed.
Also required is a one-page Curriculum Vitae (CV) for every person specifically identified in the proposal to receive funds for the project. The expertise, involvement, and responsibility of collaborators and/or specifically-identified groups acknowledged to participate in the project must be explained if they are not included in the budget.

References and Citations (one page maximum)

*ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE: The “Lead Principal Investigator” will be the sole contact for NSRC managers throughout the competition. Responsibility for forwarding NSRC informational updates to Graduate student and any Co-PIs rests with the Lead PI.

Notification of acceptance or denial of proposals will be made by or before August 20, 2015.