



Northeastern States Research Cooperative Releases 2021 Request for Proposals

Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC) will again put science to work across the Northern Forest in support of a vibrant and thriving economy and culture, rooted in forest health.

NSRC released a new request for proposals ([RFP](#)) in September 2021 for research to begin in May 2022. \$1.8 million is available to support research projects that may range from small seed grants to three-year projects. Informed by our external advisory committee, NSRC seeks proposals addressing (1) the state of the forest, (2) measuring and quantifying impacts, (3) developing tools for response and/or (4) rural community and economic development (see the RFP for complete guidelines for submissions).

“The USDA Forest Service has a long history of working with a variety of partners to ensure the sustainability of the Northeastern forests, and the Northern Research Station is proud to be contributing to the work of the Northeastern States Research Cooperative,” said Cynthia West, Director of the Northern Research Station and the Forest Products Laboratory.

In 2021, an External Advisory Committee (EAC) of 16 representatives of communities, businesses, industries, and agencies in the Northern Forest Region that contribute to and benefit from knowledge generated by research funded via the NSRC reviewed the 2020 RFP to assess the success of its content and processes. Based on the EAC feedback, this RFP doubles down on its call for research that has *a clear link to application and use by stakeholders and decision-makers in the Northern Forest region*. Successful proposals will clearly articulate the research question they are asking, their rationale for why that question is important to stakeholders, and their strategy for making their results actionable.

Participation in this RFP is open to scientists, resource managers, policy makers, and other stakeholders pursuing research relevant to forest lands in the northern tier of New York, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. Participation by USFS personnel in projects is encouraged. Special conditions apply to USFS employees who submit proposals as PIs or Co-PIs.

Proposals that are relevant to Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities in the region and that have regional applicability are encouraged. A separate RFP for the NSRC Indigenous Forest Knowledge Fund will be released in late spring 2022.

In 2021, NSRC received 50 proposals requesting \$6.3 million dollars in funding. After an external and internal review process, NSRC awarded 13 grants totaling \$1.6 million of federal funding and \$0.8 million of matching funding for research that addressed priority issues identified by forest stakeholders in the Northern Forest region. The projects covered a broad range of concerns related to land use and sustainable forestry, rural communities and economic development, climate change, biodiversity, recreation and tourism, invasive pests and diseases, and Traditional Ecological Knowledge. For more information on the 2020 awards and NSRC stakeholder interactions, see the recently released 2021 Annual Report. <https://nsrcforest.org/sites/default/files/uploads/AnnualReport2019-2021.pdf>

Timeline: Interested researchers are required to submit a **pre-proposal by October 27, 2021; full proposals will be due January 18, 2022**. The NSRC plans both an external and internal review of full proposals. Notifications of final proposal selections will be made in April 2022, and funding will be awarded in May 2022 in time for the 2022 field season.

The Northeastern States Research Cooperative (NSRC) is a competitive grant program for Northern Forest research, jointly directed through the USDA Forest Service [Northern Research Station](#), the [Hubbard Brook Research Foundation](#), and a designated institution in each of the four Northern Forest states: the [Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources](#) at the University of Vermont, the [Department of Natural Resources and the Environment](#) at the University of New Hampshire, the [Center for Research on Sustainable Forests](#) at the University of Maine, and the [Department of Sustainable Resources Management](#) at the College of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York.

For more information about NSRC, please visit our website at <https://nsrcforest.org>. Questions on the RFP should be directed to NSRC state managers, listed below:

Maine

Meg Fergusson

margaret.fergusson@maine.edu

New Hampshire

Michelle D. Shattuck

michelle.shattuck@unh.edu

New York

Mary Beth Malmsheimer

mmalmshe@esf.edu

Vermont

Julianna White

julianna.m.white@uvm.edu