

U&CF Stakeholder Call: Responses to Follow-up Questions to the National Office

1. You said there would be a national tree planting grant project. I assume local non-profits would be eligible for these funds. If so, would these funds be distributed to the non-profits from the national office, regional office, or state forester's office, and who would be the entity(ies) who would review the proposals?

In FY 2012, the National U&CF Program will pilot a \$1 million Strategic Tree Planting Initiative. Although details and guidelines of the pilot have not been finalized, the pilot is expected to launch as a national request for proposals (RFP) to select a limited number of pilot sites for implementation. Municipal governments, states and nonprofits will be eligible to apply for the cost-share grants on behalf of the project partners. Proposals will be reviewed and ranked by a diverse review panel, which will be established in the near future. The decision has not been made on whether funds will be distributed directly from the Forest Service or through the state forestry agencies.

2. What is the timeframe of the Strategic Tree Planting Initiative? How soon do they expect to roll the program out and launch? Is it a one year or multi-year program?

We are targeting Early Summer 2012 to launch of the Strategic Tree Planting Pilot. As planned, this is only a one-year pilot, but the success of the program will determine future pilots and funding of additional related projects.

3. More urban forestry groups are getting involved in utilizing urban wood and have a good relationship with the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC). Will there be any integration of that program and its grants with U&CF? What is the status of WERC's funding and where is it in the FS budget?

The Urban & Community Forestry Program has been an active supporter of the Wood Education Resource Center (WERC). WERC is part of the Forest Service Northeastern Area (NA) Organization. More information regarding funding and budget status is available through the NA Budget Organization. To learn more information about grants, programs and funding opportunities, please visit the NA WERC website. <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/werc/>