

DEPARTMENT OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE**Mini-grant Application****Control and Eradication of Yellow Starthistle
at the Eastern Leading Edge
by Weed Management Areas in the
Sierra Nevada Foothills of California****November 2007**

The California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) is requesting applications and action plans from Weed Management Areas (WMAs) to implement Yellow starthistle control and eradication projects along the eastern leading edge of the infestation in 14 counties in California. The funding is available from CDFA via the general fund budget and a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Pulling Together Initiative.

The project goal is to safeguard agriculture (grazing and timber), wildlife habitat, recreation, native vegetation and threatened species in the Sierra Nevada by establishing and maintaining a Yellow starthistle stop-the-spread line.

Mini-grants may be used to:

- Survey, map and document 1) the eastern leading edge of the Yellow starthistle infestation and establish a "no-spread" line to stop the spread into the Sierra Nevada Mountains and/or 2) isolated outlier populations east of the "no-spread" line.
- Fund priority YST control projects at the "no-spread" line and eradication projects to remove outlier infestations past the stop-the-spread line. Treatment may be completed by WMA members/organizations or via a cost share program with local landowners.

Eligibility:

Proposals must be submitted on behalf of a recognized county-based California WMA within the 14 county region, which includes Plumas, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, El Dorado, Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare and Kern counties.

Individual projects within the proposal action plan can be conducted by any signatory(s) of the WMA, but the lead agency for contracting purposes must be a County Agricultural Department, Resource Conservation District or other governmental agency. CDFA will contract with only one

entity per county. WMAs having proposals that involve compensated work by more than one WMA member will need to rely on sub-contracting with the lead contracting entity.

Proposals due date:

Action Plans and budgets must be submitted by **5 pm, Friday, December 7, 2007** via email to: sschoenig@cdfa.ca.gov and wkwest@ucdavis.edu. The action plan and budget are very simple to complete. Late proposals will not be accepted!

What an application must include:

Each application shall include the following which **must** be created using the electronic templates provided:

- 1) Application and Action Plan (Microsoft Word document);
- 2) Budget (Microsoft Excel spreadsheet);

Please DO NOT send maps as part of the application process. The project coordinator will meet with all WMA to review current mapping data.

Project Priorities

Consider the following criteria when developing project priorities and action plans:

1. Establishment of a leading edge/"no spread" line
 - Has the YST "no-spread" line been well documented in the county?
 - If not, what is needed to establish that line?
2. Identification of YST outlier populations
 - Have all outlier populations been documented east of the leading edge line?
 - If not, how will properties and/or roads be prioritized for mapping and documentation work?
3. Prioritization – disturbed areas
 - Are there high-disturbance areas on or near the "no-spread" line that should be top priorities for additional mapping/surveying and/or treatment? (e.g. wildfire burned areas, construction areas, including new housing and roads, etc.)
4. Prioritization – high risk areas
 - Are there other high risk areas that should be a top priority for surveying, mapping and/or treatment? (e.g. near threatened or endangered plant species, sensitive wildlife habitat, agriculture, important recreational assets, water courses that may be vectors for spread, etc.)

Contract and Funding time period:

All projects must be completed by September 15, 2008. Successful applicants will receive a letter of intent by mid-December listing January 1, 2008 as the project start date. Contracts should be issued by mid-January, 2008.

In-kind requirements:

Action Plans and final reports must document in-kind contributions provided by the WMA partners and/or private landowners. In-kind (aka cost-share) is counted as local resources (monetary or in-kind) contributed to help carry out the project. In-kind may also include non-federal grants that fund this project.

Administrative Costs:

Administrative costs are not allowed within these mini-grants.

Maximum amount for funding request:

Because of limited grant dollars not all proposals may be selected for funding. When evaluating the proposals, the review committee will consider the merit of each proposal as part of the overall *regional* strategy. Each Weed Management Area can request up to **\$5000** per county. Depending on the total number of requests and the link to the regional strategy, some counties may be awarded more than requested, part of their request or no funding during this grant cycle. We hope to establish a strong regional program with this initial year of funding, in anticipation of requesting additional grants in future years.

Application Review

Applications and action plans will be reviewed by CDFA and the program's advisory committee. Factors in evaluating the applications for funding will include:

- Completeness of application, action plan and budget;
- Alignment of the project description with current needs in each county to establish and maintain a YST leading edge line as part of a long term control strategy for the region;
- Amount of funding available to the WMA for YST leading edge/outlier projects via past and current CDFA grants (e.g. WMA Funding and USFS State and Private Forestry).

Reporting Requirements

A one page report will be required **by September 15, 2008** at the completion of the project work. Reports should be emailed to Wendy West – Project Coordinator at wkwest@ucdavis.edu. A report template will be emailed to the contract and project contacts in early August 2008. Documentation should include miles and/or acres surveyed/mapped, methods used and total acres treated, estimated percent cover estimates in areas treated, a list of partners and in-kind contributions and/or number of people reached with educational information. Mapping data collected in 2008 must be submitted to Colleen Murphy-Vierra at CDFA cmurphy@cdfa.ca.gov by September 15, 2008.

Questions and comments should be directed to:

Wendy West – Project Coordinator
University of California Cooperative Extension
311 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667
(530) 621-5533
wkwest@ucdavis.edu

**Action Plan for Control and Eradication of Yellow Starthistle
at the Eastern Leading Edge by
WMAs in the Sierra Nevada Foothills
November 2007- September 2008**

Please complete:

- **Action Plan (this Word document, two pages)**
- **Budget (Excel document – budget template, one page)**
- **Email by 5 pm, Friday, December 7, 2007 to: sschoenig@cdfa.ca.gov and wkwest@ucdavis.edu.**

County covered in this plan:

Primary contract lead person (name, phone number, email address and mailing address):

Name and address for letter of intent and contract:

Primary project lead person (name and contact information):

Project status - please mark with an "X" in the appropriate box to describe the status of this project in your county:

Project component:	Completed	Next step: Included in this Action Plan	Future step: Part of long- term strategy
Survey and mapping of YST eastern leading edge			
Agreement on the "no-spread" line based on mapping data			
Delimitation and mapping of outlier infestations east of the line			
Educational outreach to landowners/managers along the line and near outliers			
All landowners and managers (agency and private) along the line and near outliers are engaged in a coordinated effort to control YST			
Treatment of YST along "no-spread" line			
Treatment of YST outlier populations			

Action Plan Tasks: List and number tasks that will be performed on this project from November 1, 2007 – September 15, 2008. List all planned tasks, whether funded by the grant or completed as in-kind contributions. See example below.

Example:

1. Review YST leading edge mapping data and agree on the “no-spread” line
2. Send all historical GPS data to CDFA for regional compilation
3. Review mapping with WMA members and document areas that need survey work to check for additional outlier populations
4. Mail YST control information to all landowners along the no-spread line and near outlier populations, utilizing the landownership GIS database
5. Prepare packet detailing cost share funding available to landowners in 2008
6. Contact landowners/managers to coordinated treatments in 2008
7. Hire seasonal staff to complete additional YST outlier surveys and treat outliers and public easements east of the no-spread line
8. Survey, map and treat outliers
9. Treat populations along the leading edge (roadsides, public easements, private lands)
10. Follow-up with landowners/managers to document treatment and results during 2008
11. Compile GPS data and send to CDFA
12. Compile treatment documentation, review 2008 maps and plan for 2009

In-kind/Cost Share Contributions: Please list sources of in-kind or cost-share, tasks anticipated that they will complete and estimated total amount to be contributed. Reasonable *estimates* are acceptable.