

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**For**  
**East Maui Weed Mapping and Weed Control Technical Guide**

**1. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND**

Noxious weed control is one of the greatest conservation challenges in the state of Hawaii and is viewed as a state-wide “resource concern.” Virtually all USDA-NRCS projects include pest or brush management practices as an integral step in native re-vegetation and restoration of wetland and upland habitats. Indeed, the newly developed Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) plan identifies pest management as one of the main practices for riparian and upper watershed restoration success, and includes weed control activities as priority practices.

Like NRCS, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and other private landowners have a keen interest in improved identification of weeds that are most likely to spread from rangelands to native forests, mapping of the most problematic weeds, and finding solutions for control.

An example of a persistent and problematic weed on ranch lands is Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), which “renders high pastures totally unproductive and impassable.” It also is invading native forests. This is one of over a dozen high priority weed species that will be identified, mapped, and analyzed for control as part of this project.

**Proposals shall be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., October 15, 2004, to the Nature Conservancy, 923 Nuuanu Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96817 or faxed to (808) 545-2019, attn: Arnold Wong.**

**2. DELIVERABLES**

The Contractor will be required to complete the following work tasks by September 30, 2005.

(1) Overall Weed Map

Create an overall weed map for approximately 10,000 acres of the East Maui Watershed (see attached map). Approximately 15-20 high-priority weeds that currently or have the potential to negatively impact ranchlands and native forest areas will be included. This effort will entail summarizing all existing information on these species including field surveys, existing spatial data, shape files, and expert knowledge/interviews. With input from the project team, which will be comprised of representatives from NRCS, Haleakala Ranch, and The Nature Conservancy, the contractor will also produce a 2-5 page summary report that identifies the most important weed information gaps for the area. (Filling the most critical information gaps will become the basis for on-the-ground surveys outlined in step (2) below.) We estimate the effort needed to develop the overall weed map to be approximately 3 months at half time.

Products: Weed map(s) for 15-20 species; ArcView shapefiles; 2-5 page report on critical information gaps and recommendations for step (2) below.

## (2) On-the-Ground Surveys & Mapping

Based on the results from step (1), the contractor will work with the project team to select 1-3 weed information gaps and will perform detailed on-the-ground surveys and mapping efforts to fill those information gaps. This could include surveys of 15-20 high priority weed species in 1-3 identified areas of several thousand acres each. The extent and resolution of mapping will be determined with the project team. The level of effort dedicated to this project component is approximately 6 months at half time. Please include a general estimate of helicopter time and supplies necessary for this component in your proposal.

Products: Maps of the distribution of 15-20 weed species for 1-3 finer-scale areas of the landscape; ArcView shapefiles; Excel data files. Areas to be surveyed will be determined using information gained in step (1) above and in consultation with the project team.

## (3) Final Reports

There will be two written products from this effort. The first will be an NRCS Biology Technical Note. The Technical Note will be 10-30 pages and will include overall information on weeds important to ranchlands and native forests. The Technical Note will include: list of priority species and basic information about the species and their life history characteristics; a brief outline of control practices for each species; and other information that would be useful for ranch managers and NRCS staff in managing these species. This Technical Note will comply with all requirements of the NRCS for the completion of this type of report. The second written product will be a final report. The final report will be 5-20 pages and will summarize the findings of the mapping efforts in steps 1 & 2. It will also include recommendations to NRCS as to priority species and priority areas in the landscape for weed management on private ranchlands. We anticipate that this project component will take approximately 3 months at half time.

Products: NRCS Biology Technical Note; final report including recommendations to NRCS.

The project team will at its sole discretion approve or reject the product deliverables for each stage of the project.

## **3. AMOUNT**

The range for the amount for this project will be \$1 - \$35,000, pending funding availability. *(This project may be fully or partially funded from the U.S. Federal Government, as such, all rules and regulations that may govern these funds are enacted and will be applied.)*

## **4. PROPOSALS DUE BY: October 15, 2004, 2:00 p.m.**

## **5. PREPARATION AND SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS**

1. Submittal: All applicants must submit the following:
  - A. All proposals should be based on Times Roman 12 pt font. Margins 1" left, 1" right, top, and bottom.
  - B. One (1) original and two (2) copies of the proposals
  - C. A Cover Page shall include title, name, address, phone number, facsimile number, and e-mail address
  - D. Project Narrative should not exceed 2 pages; Experience Narrative should not exceed 1 page; and Budget and Timeline should not exceed 1 page each

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, OR REQUIRE AMENDMENTS TO THE PROPOSALS WITHOUT LIABILITY WHATSOEVER. THE NATURE CONSERVANCY ALSO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO AMEND OR SUPPLEMENT REQUIREMENTS AND MATERIALS, IN WRITING, AT ANY TIME PRIOR TO THE SUBMISSION DATE.

## **6. EVALUATION AND SELECTION OF PROPOSALS**

1. Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of their effectiveness to meet the objectives and deliverables (50 pts);
2. Experience of the vendor (25 pts); and
3. Timeline and budget (25 pts).