



# EASTERN PLANT BOARD

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2011 Annual Meeting  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## NORTHEASTERN AREA (NA) STATE AND PRIVATE FORESTRY (S & PF) COMPETITIVE ALLOCATION PROCESS

We recognize and applaud the USDA Forest Service's efforts to both increase the transparency and improve the process for distribution of critical forest health funding. This worthy goal is one that the Eastern Plant Board members support, although we have concerns about its implementation. Our concerns are in line with those recently expressed by the Central Plant Board via resolution at its March 10, 2011 meeting. We feel that our concerns could readily be addressed by modifying the submission process and making it similar to that used for Farm Bill 10201 funds. Distribution of these Farm Bill funds requires that the State Plant Regulatory Officials and State Plant Health Directors in the state in which the proposal originates are copied. If this change were implemented, the goal of informing State Foresters about the forest pest activities within their state would be achieved without forcing them to grant another State Agency access to funding. Additionally, we are concerned that the competitive allocation process may not facilitate the goals of existing pest eradication and suppression programs. USDA Forest Service forest health funds have been invaluable in supporting existing pest suppression and/or eradication efforts (i.e. ALB, EAB, Pine Shoot Beetle). We believe that funds targeting pest eradication and suppression should be granted outside of the competitive process to ensure that these activities are supported.

**RESOLVED:** the Eastern Plant Board at its annual meeting in Worcester, MA on March 14, 2011, requests that USFS revises the NA S & PF Competitive Allocation process to:

- a) remove the requirement for State Forester *consent* and replace with a requirement to *submit a copy* of the application with the State Forester, and;
- b) limit applications for pest suppression and/or eradication funding to existing programs so that program goals are supported in the most efficient way possible.

### DISTRIBUTION:

James Hubbard, Deputy Chief, USDA-Forest Service State and Private Forestry

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