



# Request for Proposals

## Forester Review of ANF Project Proposals

PO Box 719, Kane, PA 16735 • [www.alleghenyforestalliance.org](http://www.alleghenyforestalliance.org)

This RFP seeks proposals from credentialed foresters with a minimum of 5 years' experience and natural resource professionals with extensive experience. Retired professionals are also encouraged to submit proposals.

**RFP Issued:** February 10, 2023

**Due Date for Response:** There is no deadline for this RFP; this request will remain open until filled.

**Services Requested:**

The services of one or more trained and experienced foresters with either an AS in Forest Technology or a BS in Forest or wildlife management (or some closely related field) and/or natural resource professionals with extensive experience are needed for review of 6 – 8 ANF NEPA analysis and vegetation management project proposals per year using sustainable forest management principles. Respondents should be familiar with both NEPA and the ANF Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and be able to relate the project proposals to the Forest Plan's desired conditions and make appropriate and meaningful suggestions for the betterment of the proposals.

The professional(s) selected will provide the AFA with comments, concerns and, if appropriate, recommendations for changes to projects or their prescriptions. These must meet the ANF's project purpose while also meeting the AFA's goals of forest health and multiple-use management of the forest and providing maximum community benefit through timber sale receipts ("25% Fund/SRS). These comments and recommendations will be used by the AFA to craft project comments and should be complete enough to be copied and pasted into a comment letter with minimal editing. Follow-up communications via phone or email may be needed for clarification or questions.

The number of hours needed for review, research, and comment preparation will vary from project to project but are estimated to average 2 hours each.

The Project Comment Period is 30 days from date of publication in the Warren Times Observer. The contracted professional's review and comments will need to be received by the AFA *within two weeks of assignment* to allow time to prepare and submit its Project Comment Letter, as well as distribute it to members for their own use.

Project proposals are listed on the ANF's Schedule of Proposed Actions and generally include a scoping document, project map(s), and supporting documents to be reviewed. If the contracted

professional is not familiar enough with a project site's conditions to make informed recommendations, a request for a site visit should be submitted to the AFA for approval. The AFA will forward project links or documents to the contracted professional(s) for review as needed. More information on the Schedule of Proposed Actions can be found on the USDA website.

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/sopa/components/sopa-dscr.shtml#abbrdefines>

Project comments submitted to the ANF need to be project and site specific, backed by practical experience and proven science, and offer helpful suggestions for project improvement when appropriate. The AFA is seeking the service of foresters and/or natural resource professionals to ensure that our comments are well-informed and scientifically sound, as well as practical.

**About the AFA:** The Allegheny Forest Alliance is a non-profit advocacy organization seeking to 1) ensure management of the Allegheny National Forest supports the health of the forest; 2) ensure the multiple-use management of the ANF; and 3) to grow and stabilize the funds ANF host communities receive in lieu of property taxes.

One of the ways we achieve these goals is through reviewing and commenting on project proposals from the ANF. In submitting project comments, the AFA also seeks to support the ANF in its efforts to meet the forest's management needs and to counterbalance the in-depth comments with research references from anti-logging Wilderness and endangered species advocates. The voice of these groups must be balanced with those who look at the forest holistically and see it for the working forest it was intended to be (aside from those sections reserved for research and Wilderness).

The AFA primarily comments on ANF projects that address Vegetation Management (i.e.: invasive plant treatments, thinning, prescribed fire) and Forest Products (harvest). Age Class imbalance, regeneration, and invasive plant treatment are high priority concerns for both the AFA and the ANF. Habitat improvement projects may also warrant comment from the AFA when merchantable trees are to be removed.

AFA is both a "watchdog" and supporter/partner of the ANF and strives to maintain a good working relationship with the agency while meeting our mission.

**Proposal Submittal:** When submitting your proposal, please include how many projects you are willing to review per year. If multiple professionals are needed to meet the number of project proposals, the AFA will make every effort to distribute projects to the contracted professionals based on their site familiarity, specialty/experience, and/or other factors.

**To respond to this RFP, submit a letter that includes the following:**

- A. Professional and/or Company Background, credentials, and experience with ANF project comments and/or working with the ANF as a contractor, consultant, or other capacity
- B. Confirm and detail familiarity with NEPA and the ANF Forest Plan
- C. Any limitations in your geographic service area
- D. Whether you/your company is proposing to review all projects (6 – 8 per year) or a limited number of projects annually
- E. Primary contact Information (name, title, email, mailing address, and phone number)
- F. Cost for Services as outlined in the RFP on a per project review basis
- G. Confirm that you are able to deliver project reviews within two weeks of assignment
- H. Attach a resume for each professional who will be performing project reviews

**Additional Instructions for Responding to this RFP:**

Please limit contact to the individual identified below. Submit your proposal and any questions electronically no later than the deadline noted at the beginning of this RFP. Confirmation of receipt of your proposal will be sent via email. Proposals received by the deadline are guaranteed consideration. Late proposals may be considered if the organization has not already awarded the contract(s) or alternates are needed.

**Submit Proposals to:** Julia McCray, Executive Director  
E-mail: [afaexec@gmail.com](mailto:afaexec@gmail.com)