

Forest Tree Breeding and Genetic Resource Management in the 21st Century

A Proposal to Develop a National Institute of Tree Breeding

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All interested parties are invited to participate in a
Proposal Development Discussion Group

Tuesday, May 17th at 5:00 pm in the Merchants Hotel N meeting room

Overall Objectives of proposed institute:

1. U.S. Forest Service led partnership providing long-term funding models, national and regional perspectives on species priorities and breeding objectives, and existing plant materials and tree improvement infrastructure.
2. Provide sustainable, long-term, region-wide breeding programs for the most important and threatened forest tree species.
3. Develop curriculum for professional tree breeder and tree breeder certificates and work with university partners to train professionals, landowners and others in tree breeding
4. Develop and implement participatory tree breeding methods in each species' program and new programs as they enter the institute

Key Features of proposed institute:

1. Networked consortium of tree breeders and their breeding programs
 - a. Lead tree breeder and an assistant breeder (apprentice) for each species, with an operating budget and in kind institutional support
 - b. Breeders collaborate with each other to facilitate progress and success in all programs while being responsible for their own program
 - c. Breeders develop and implement a curriculum for training and retaining tree breeders
 - d. Breeders individually and as an institute report to a board of directors, where the board consists of representatives of the following: station and area directors, regional foresters, as well as appropriate representatives from funding Universities and state forestry agencies
2. USFS funding to be committed in 5 year intervals, NTE four renewals or 25 years total. Programs will need to begin with matching funds and develop a path to non-USFS funding and stay on track in order to be renewed.
 - a. Quality assurance standards required to enter a species into the institute to include economic and ecologic justification, a well-documented user's group, and a sustainable funding plan
 - b. Funding (USFS and other) permitting, new species may apply for funding and entry into the institute. Applications will be reviewed by expert panel with recommendations made to board of directors.
3. Peer reviewed breeding plans and annual progress reports, with funding set aside for peer reviews, and where breeding plans are regional and cover a substantial portion of the species' native ranges

If you are interested, but cannot participate in the discussion please email Dana (dananelson@fs.fed.us) or Jennifer (jkoch@fs.fed.us) with questions or suggestions.

