2014 NUCFAC- recommended U.S. Forest Service grants

Category 1: Making Urban Trees and Forests More Resilient to the Impacts of Natural Disasters and the Long-term Impacts of Climate Change

University of Florida, Mobile Tree Failure Prediction for Storm Preparation and Response;
Federal Grant Amount: $281,648
This proposed modeling system will assist urban forest managers in predicting tree failure during storms by developing a data collection model and a mobile Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping application to quantify tree risk in communities. The results and a best management practices manual will be made available to all researchers and professionals through the International Tree Failure Database, providing the standardized data needed to enhance our understanding of wind-related tree failure.

Category 2: Green Infrastructure Jobs Analysis

Jobs for the Future, Jobs for the Future Green Infrastructure Jobs Analysis
Federal Grant Amount: $175,000
Jobs for the Future will conduct a labor market analysis that will build a business case for important green infrastructure investments in our communities. This will include strategies for expanding green infrastructure job growth in both the private and public sectors.

Category 3: Utilizing Green Infrastructure to Manage and Mitigate Stormwater to Improve Water Quality

University of South Florida, From Gray to Green: Tools for Transitioning to Vegetation-Based Stormwater Management
Federal Grant Amount: $149,722
Many communities lack systematic strategies to transition from the existing conventional (gray) drainage systems to green infrastructure. This project will provide natural resource managers, planners, and engineers with decision-support tools to aid the strategic planning process for transitioning to green infrastructure systems that emphasize trees and urban forests.

University of Tennessee, Storm Water Goes Green: Investigating the Benefit and Health of Urban Trees in Green Infrastructure Installations
Federal Grant Amount: $200,322
The contribution of trees to storm water management is not well understood. Project will demonstrate the role of trees in bio retention areas and provide recommendations regarding system design and tree species selection to maximize bio retention area functionality and tree health.

Center for Watershed Protection, Making Urban Trees Count: A Project to Demonstrate the Role of Urban Trees in Achieving Regulatory Compliance for Clean Water Research
Federal Grant Amount: $103,120
Project will assist storm water managers with how to "credit" trees for runoff and pollutant load reduction in order to compare with other best management practices. A proposed design specification model for urban tree planting will address crediting, verification, cost-effectiveness, and tree health.

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The full announcement can be found at:

http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2014/06/0133.xml&navid=NEWS_RELEASE&navtype=RT&parentnav=LATEST_RELEASES&edeployment_action=retrievecontent

For more information about the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council, please visitwww.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac.html.