



**Request For Information (RFI)**  
**Analysis of the Impact of Carbon Pricing on the U.S. Forest Sector and Rural Communities**

July 15, 2021

U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc.  
908 E. North Street  
Greenville, SC 29601

## INTRODUCTION AND INSTRUCTIONS

### Purpose of the RFI

The US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, Inc. (Endowment) is soliciting information from potential bidders for a comprehensive analysis of the impact of carbon pricing on the U.S. Forest Sector and Rural Communities.

The information, data, comments, or reactions obtained will be used in refining the scope of analysis and formulating a Request for Proposals. This RFI does not constitute an invitation for Bid, Request for Proposal, or Proposal and is not to be construed as a commitment by the Endowment.

The Endowment team will review all responses received and promptly respond. We anticipate requesting proposals for the scope of work in August/September 2021.

### Contact and Response Information

Please submit responses to [general@usendowment.org](mailto:general@usendowment.org) by the deadline specified in the Schedule.

Interested parties may contact one of the Endowment team members below to discuss this RFI.

- Alicia Cramer, Senior Vice President; [alicia@usendowment.org](mailto:alicia@usendowment.org)
- Matt Krumenauer, Vice President, [matt@usendowment.org](mailto:matt@usendowment.org)

### RFI Schedule

EVENT	DATE
RFI issued	July 15, 2021
Deadline for Submission of Responses	August 20, 2021. 5:00PM Pacific Time
Anticipated Request for Proposals	August 30, 2021

## **Endowment Background**

The Endowment is committed to keeping working forests as forests and advancing family-wage jobs in forest-rich rural communities. Through strategic and deliberate investment, we support research and development in traditional forest product markets, ensuring that forests and forest-based economies grow and thrive. Additional information about the Endowment, including annual reports and financial information is available at [www.usendowment.org](http://www.usendowment.org)

## **Anti-Discrimination**

Decisions and practices of the Endowment are not and will not be unlawfully influenced or affected by race, color, creed, age, religion, national origin, sex, disability, genetic information, veteran status, uniformed services, sexual orientation, (including transgender status, gender identity or expression), gender, pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions or on any other characteristic protected by applicable federal, state, or local law.

## Objectives and Statement of Need

### Background

Natural solutions, such as enhancing forest carbon sequestration, have been identified as an important opportunity in climate policy. Companies and governments making commitments to reduce emissions are actively seeking and investing in projects and programs that will secure forest carbon.

Forests have several critically important roles in mitigating climate change – namely by storing carbon, providing renewable raw materials, and delivering other ecosystem services. Forests are a primary economic driver for many rural communities.

The pricing of forest carbon can provide some important opportunities for the sector but could also come with unintended consequences. This research will evaluate the economic impacts of pricing forest carbon and identify the opportunities and implications.

The Endowment seeks information from qualified firms in economic analysis and rural policy to refine the scope of analysis. The following questions are intended to help respondents understand the research questions that we have identified and offer insights to help us refine these questions and clarify the objectives and deliverables from this project.

- How will landowner decisions be impacted by various forest carbon pricing scenarios?
- How will increased forest carbon values impact the forest products related supply chains?
- How will an increasing price of forest carbon influence forest sector related investment decisions?
- How will land prices be impacted and how will future ownership structures impact existing rural economies?
- What are the potential risks or benefits to natural resources from changes in forest management due to carbon pricing?
- What are the potential impacts to and considerations for rural communities that have historically depended on forest-related activities as an economic driver?

- How will the forest sector beyond industrial forestland management and wood products be impacted, including recreation, tourism, small-private landowners, and others?

In addition to these initial scoping questions, we request information on how this analysis could be accomplished and how the work should be structured. This should include a description of methodology, the expertise and background needed to complete the analysis, the level of effort and resources that should be expected, including schedule and budget, and any other information that will assist in the development of the overall scope of work.

### **RESPONSE FORMAT AND CONTENT**

Respondents are asked to provide a response electronically to the email listed above. PDF Format is preferred.

At a minimum please provide:

1. Contact name, phone number, and email
2. Business name, address, and phone number
3. Background and qualifications of firm (can be included as an attachment or link to website)
4. Narrative response to this RFI.
5. Any additional information that you would like the Endowment to consider.

We encourage you to be creative in your responses, but to strive to be concise. The goal of this RFI is to refine the research questions, understand the deliverables and level of effort that will be required and develop a detailed scope of work that will be issued for proposals as soon as possible. Responses that are concise and targeted to support these goals are much appreciated.

Funding has been authorized for this project and will be provided directly from the Endowment once a finalist is selected from the competitive RFP process. It is expected that the contracting mechanism will be a consulting agreement.