For the purpose of informing interested faculty, please be aware of the following opportunity:

**WFM-3301-1FHC: (ARRA) Create a Cooperative Marketing Network in Western North Carolina**

The Forest Service, Southern Research Station, U.S. Department of Agriculture, is soliciting proposals for projects to build organizational networks that will position forest operators to be more prosperous as their markets recover. The project will employ persons working with timber and non-timber forest products as well as marketing specialists, community organizers and forest products advisors.

**Some Possible Approaches include:**

- Connecting local producers of forest products with local consumers of forest products.
- Training producers to be more effective in sustainable production and local marketing.
- Assisting producers in exploring niche markets and in diversifying their forest products operations.
- Supporting existing forest products marketing cooperatives and organizing new ones where demand exists among forest producers and forest product consumers.
- Supporting cooperation among forest product practitioners, such as using shared equipment or facilities, when a formal marketing cooperative may not be needed.
- Arranging opportunities for improving communications among forest product practitioners.

The goal is to provide technical and financial assistance to help care for lands owned by state and local governments, private organizations and private individuals.

For more information about this opportunity, please see [WFM-3301-1FHC](#). The USDA announcement can be viewed [here](#).

**It is anticipated that $1.9M will be available to support an undetermined amount of awards.** Cost sharing is required.

**Deadline for Proposal to OR-Sponsored Programs:** **10/16/2009**

(Please see the solicitation for complete application & submission information.)
Please contact Sponsored Programs (4-2402) with questions regarding proposal submission requirements.

**Deadline for Proposal Submission to Agency: 10/23/2009**

If you have any questions regarding this announcement please contact:

**Dr. James Lloyd**  
Professor and Coordinator of Electronic Research Administration  
UT Knoxville Office of Research  
Phone: (865) 974-0390  
E-mail: illoyd@utk.edu