**Questions and Answers on New England Forestry Foundation Climate Smart Commodities Project Acadian Forest Modeling Support RFP**

**Q: How are stands defined in the FCAT process?**

A: The FCAT combines three raster files to delineate stands: the TreeMap data and layers containing mapped fires, other disturbances, and treatments since 2016. Each combination of unique TreeMap ID and unique disturbance and treatment history becomes a separate stand. A stand can include one or more pixels (up to thousands of acres), and may include noncontiguous pixels.

**Q: How does FCAT interact with FVS?**

Python code clips and stacks the input rasters, creates the stands, builds tree lists, and creates a SQL database. It calls the R version of the appropriate FVS variant for the geographic region.

**Q: What is required to integrate a consultant's model with the FCAT?**

A: If the consultant can modify the FVS code and compile it into a Linux binary, it will work with the FCAT. NEFF is also open to proposals of alternative methods for using a calibrated model that addresses the limitations identified with FVS to produce spatial outputs.

**Q: Can you provide some more details about how the FCAT works?**

The input and output files are SQLite. Disturbances/treatments are implemented through KCP files.

**Q: How will stochastic events be integrated into the modeling process?**

A: The work outlined in Appendix 3 of the RFP, including the modeling of stochastic events, is NOT part of this RFP and was included only for context. Respondents to this RFP are not expected to address stochastic events.

**Q: Is it expected that the model provided will address all of the concerns in the RFP, or can there be additional calibration as part of the modeling process?**

A: We are looking for a model that addresses as many of the issues identified in the RFP or by the respondent as possible, but we expect that additional calibration will be required during the modeling process. Please do your best to identify the issues that your model currently addresses, as well as any that will need to be addressed during the modeling, and an estimate of how much time may be required for additional calibration related to known issues.

**Q: How will regeneration be specified in the modeling?**

A: NEFF will have primary responsibility for identifying sources of regeneration data, with advice and assistance from SIG and the consultant.

**Q: What previous modeling experience led NEFF to seek an alternative to FVS-NE for this project?**

A: In previous modeling projects using FVS-NE in the Acadian forest, NEFF has encountered substantial issues with tree height growth and mortality over long time periods (multiple decades) and with diameter growth following thinning. Experts have reported other limitations, as described in the RFP.

**Q: Will the consultant be expected to define the silvicultural prescriptions?**

A: NEFF will have primary responsibility for defining the prescriptions, but we expect this to be an iterative process, as prescriptions are tested in the model and refined.