**Project Title: Promoting Forest Health and Reducing Forest Fire Hazards**

Project Manager Qualifications

Project Manager Matthew Aro is a Research Program Manager of Wood Products at the University of Minnesota Duluth Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI). He earned a B.S. in Broad Field Science from the University of Wisconsin-Superior, an M.S. in Management of Technology from the University of Minnesota, and an M.S. in Natural Resources Science and Management from the University of Minnesota. Since his start with the NRRI in 2003, he has worked on a broad spectrum of applied research projects, often conducted in cooperation with private industry, dealing with wood- and natural fiber-based materials. He regularly interacts and collaborates with public and private sector professionals and academicians in the wood products field. Project collaborators have included state agencies, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the National Science Foundation, and the private sector (both in the U.S. and abroad). Much of this work has focused on advancing industrial development of thermally modified wood in the U.S.

Organization Description

The NRRI was founded by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1983 with a mission to deliver research solutions to balance our economy, resources, and environment for resilient communities. It focuses on developing sustainable, natural resource-based industries; informing environmental management and policy; supporting business and entrepreneurial opportunities; and assisting industry and communities in defining and maintaining the social license. NRRI Directors, program managers, scientists, and research staff have extensive experience in managing large, interdisciplinary projects whose objectives include the development of technologies and tools for environmental assessment, resource management, and positive economic development. For more information, please visit www.nrri.umn.edu.