**Project Director Qualifications and Organization Description**

**Dr. Brian Aukema** directs the Forest Insect Laboratory in the Department of Entomology at the University of Minnesota. The University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, founded in 1951, is the largest campus within the University of Minnesota system with an enrolment of just over 50,000 students.

Prof. Aukema and his students work on both native and invasive species threatening the state of Minnesota and region (e.g., mountain pine beetle on pines, emerald ash borer on ash, gypsy moth on oak and aspen, thousand cankers disease on walnut, eastern larch beetle and larch casebearer on tamarack, and more).

Students he has taught can be found in a wide variety of resource professional positions, from city arborists to industry to state and federal government. For example, the most recent PhD student graduate from a prior (non-LCCMR) eastern larch beetle project, Dr. Fraser McKee, is now working to delineate and manage the mountain pine beetle threat in Canada.

Prof. Aukema joined the Department of Entomology as their Forest Insect specialist in the fall of 2010. Prior to this, he was a research scientist for five years with the government of Canada responsible for a program managing large-area insect outbreaks.

Prof. Aukema has successfully administered more than $2 million in research project funding from a wide variety of state, federal and industrial sources in his career. He has received early career awards for Creativity and Innovation (Government of Canada) and a McKnight Land-Grant award from the University of Minnesota.