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Request for Monitoring Project Proposals For Effectiveness Monitoring Services

August 1, 2016

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

****APPLICATIONS ARE REVIEWED TWICE EACH YEAR:
DUE DATES ARE MARCH 15th and SEPTEMBER 15th****

Background

The Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) was formed by the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) in October 2014. The goal of the EMC is to establish a collaborative, transparent, and science-based monitoring effort that delivers a physical and ecological process-based understanding of the effectiveness of the California Forest Practice Rules (FPR) and other forestry-related laws and regulations in maintaining or enhancing water quality, aquatic habitat, and wildlife habitats. The EMC acts as a technical advisory committee to the Board for developing and implementing an effectiveness monitoring program that can provide an active feedback loop to policymakers, managers, agencies and the public. The EMC Charter and Strategic Plan are posted at the EMC web site: http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/

The EMC's Strategic Plan lists several critical monitoring questions organized under 10 main themes: watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) riparian function, watercourse channel sediment, road and WLPZ sediment, mass wasting sediment, fish habitat, wildfire hazard, wildlife habitat: species and nest sites, wildlife habitat: seral stages, wildlife habitat: cumulative impacts, and wildlife habitat: structures. The EMC is seeking monitoring project proposals that (1) address one or more of the critical monitoring questions identified in the Strategic Plan, and (2) address issues important for California forestlands.

Comment [WU1]: Something saying California-centric is important was to be included.

Funding and Eligibility

There are no eligibility restrictions on who may apply for funding. The EMC has \$425,000 available to fund projects in the 2016 fiscal year beginning July 1st and the same amount for the following year. Monitoring project proposal requests cannot exceed \$150,000 (including overhead), and proposals where matching funds or in-kind contributors are identified are encouraged, but not required.

Comment [WU2]: We were supposed to mention overhead rate allowed, but I don't know what that is. Maybe this can be a placeholder.

Proposal Format

There is no required format for monitoring project proposals; however, they should include a project background and justification, objective(s) and scope, EMC Critical Question and FPRs and regulations that the monitoring project pertains to, principal investigators and collaborators, anticipated timeline, required funding and the percent of funds to be used for overhead costs. Please include a contact person with an email address, phone number and mailing address in your proposal.

Projects proposed to date are available as one page project summaries and/or concept proposals on the EMC web site and in Appendix E of the Strategic Plan. Applicants are encouraged to look at these project proposals as examples of what the EMC has accepted in the past. Applicants may submit a one to two

DRAFT

page project proposal for initial review; however, a more detailed project description will be required for the EMC to evaluate a proposal and consider it for approval. Most project descriptions are less than 15 pages, but there is no page limit.

Comment [BK3]: Review often implies full review of the proposal

Timeline

Monitoring project proposals may be submitted at any time, but are evaluated by the EMC twice per year in April and October. Proposals received by 5 PM on March 15th will be reviewed in April and proposals received by 5 PM on September 15th will be reviewed in October. Proposals will be evaluated by the EMC using the ranking criteria and approach outlined in the Strategic Plan (Appendix F). Ranking results will be posted on the EMC web site and project proponents will be notified of the results.

Transparency

All monitoring project proposals and the ranking results will be made publicly available on the EMC web site.

Contact Information

Interested applicants should carefully review the information in this RFP and on the EMC web site. To apply, proposals should be mailed or emailed in Microsoft Word or PDF format to:

Mr. Matt Dias, Executive Officer
California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
Phone: (916) 653-8031/Fax: (916) 653-0989
Matt.Dias@bof.ca.gov

All questions and requests for further information should be directed to Matt Dias.