

BOARD OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION

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Request for Effectiveness Monitoring Project Proposals

March 13, 2017

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee
California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

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 (FPRs) 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 policy makers, managers, agencies and the public. Applicants are encouraged to submit monitoring project proposals that contribute to this active feedback loop. The EMC Charter and Strategic Plan are posted on 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.

Funding and Eligibility

There are no eligibility restrictions on who may apply for funding. The EMC has \$425,000 available to fund projects in both fiscal years 2016/17 and 17/18. Proposals where matching funds or in-kind contributors are identified are encouraged, but not required. Proposals that do not require funding but seek to support EMC objectives and be part of the effectiveness monitoring program are also encouraged. All funding awards will be distributed through state procurement processes.

Proposal Format

There is no required format for monitoring proposals; however, they should include a background and justification, objective(s) and scope, EMC critical question(s) and FPRs and regulations to which the monitoring pertains, principal investigators and collaborators, anticipated timeline, requested funding, and the percentage 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 concept proposals on the EMC web site and in Appendix E of the Strategic Plan, which is available online here:

http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/mission_goals/final_emc_monitoring_committee_strategic_plan_01_25_17.pdf.

Applicants are encouraged to look at these project summaries and concept proposals as examples of what the EMC has accepted in the past. Applicants may submit a one to two page project summary for initial review; however, a concept proposal will be required for the EMC to evaluate a project and consider it for approval. Most concept proposals are approximately 5-10 pages, but there is no page limit. If a concept proposal is supported by the EMC and funding is requested, a final project proposal must be submitted to the EMC before recommendation of funding is made.

Timeline

Concept proposals may be submitted at any time, but at a minimum, they will be evaluated by the EMC twice per year in April and October. Concept 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 may be reviewed and ranked at other times as needed and appropriate in the flow of proposals before the EMC. Concept proposals will be evaluated by the EMC using the ranking criteria and approach outlined in Appendix F, which is available online here:

http://bofdata.fire.ca.gov/board_committees/effectiveness_monitoring_committee/mission_goals/final_emc_monitoring_committee_strategic_plan_01_25_17.pdf. Ranking results will be posted on the EMC web site and project proponents will be notified of the results and receive the comments of the EMC.

Transparency

Transparency is a key goal of the EMC. All concept proposals and their ranking will be made publicly available on the EMC web site. Final results and data from EMC approved projects will be made available on request. If an EMC member is the principal investigator of a proposed project, the EMC member will recuse themselves from ranking their own project.

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:

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