

REQUEST FOR PRE-PROPOSALS
Montana Water Research Seed Grants Program
Funding cycle 3/1/2010 - 2/28/2011
Issued September 16, 2009
Deadline October 16, 2009

I. INTRODUCTION

This request is issued under the authority of the federal Water Resources Research Act, section 104b, administered by the U.S. Department of Interior through the Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. Administering this state competitive-grant program is the responsibility of the Montana University System Water Center. All information requests should be directed to:

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Bozeman, MT 59717
(406) 994-6690 or 1772
stephen.guettermann@montana.edu

Montana Water Center Associate Directors at:
University of Montana: Don Potts
(406) 243-6622
dpotts@forestry.umt.edu
Bureau of Mines and Geology: Marvin Miller
(406) 496-4155
mmiller@mtech.edu

Detailed information on this program, including a description of research priorities, is available at:
http://watercenter.montana.edu/funding/usgs_grants.htm.

II. PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH TOPICS

Research funded by this program is intended to address water-resource problems of significance in Montana. The principal objectives, in priority order, are to:

- foster student involvement in water research and data analysis;
- assist new faculty members to begin their research careers;
- provide seed funding for projects with potential for growing into larger programs; and
- conduct research relevant to Montana water problems or issues.

Research Priorities for 2009 - A premium is placed on applied research and data analysis that can inform water-management decisions in the near term. Special consideration will be given to proposals to investigate:

- **Water quality:** Nutrient pollution; pharmaceuticals and personal care products in water; vulnerability of individual water supplies.
- **Wastewater:** Constructed wetlands for treating municipal effluent; alternatives for meeting municipal water/wastewater infrastructure needs; aggressive programs to curtail generation of wastewater. When to require central sewer systems vs when onsite wastewater management works better.
- **Invasive species:** Water consumption of salt cedar and Russian olive, especially compared to native vegetation; aquatic nuisance species.
- **Development:** Quantifying cost and benefits of stream setbacks; development effects on water resources.
- **Energy and water:** Water-resource impacts on energy development; effects of retrofitting hydropower generating capacity onto existing dams; climate change impacts on water availability for energy production.

- **Climate Change:** Climate change impacts on water availability for human use; climate change impacts on fish and wildlife.

III. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Any investigator at a Montana institution of higher learning is eligible to apply for these awards. Favor will be shown to proposals from Assistant Professors and, to a lesser extent, Associate Professors. An applicant may not permit any federal employee to use his or her position for a purpose that is, or gives the appearance of being, in conflict of interest, either by giving the applicant an unfair advantage or by a desire for private financial gain.

IV. TIMELINE

Because the 5-year USGS base grant to the Montana Water Center ends February 28, 2011, in this cycle no project can exceed one year in length, and no time extensions can be granted. *Please note: the start date depends upon the timing of the Congressional budget approval process for federal fiscal year 2010.*

YEAR	DATE	ACTION
2009	September 15	Water Center Advisory Committee meeting
	September 16	Request for Pre-proposals distributed
	October 16	Pre-proposals due electronically to Montana Water Center by 5 pm. A message of intent prior to this date is advisable.
	Week of October 19	Pre-proposal review and ranking meeting; successful candidates requested to submit full proposals
	November 20	Full proposals due
	December 4	Peer reviews due to the Water Center
	Week of December 14	Final selection by Water Center Director and Associate Directors
2010	January 15	Selected Montana proposals due to USGS
	March 1	Subcontracts issued by MSU Office of Sponsored Programs
	June 1	MWC annual report due to USGS via the NIWR.NET site
2011	February 28	Completion of 2010-2011 research projects
	May 1	Final reports of all research projects due.

V. PRE-PROPOSAL FORMAT

Pre-proposals may be no longer than four single-sided or 2 double-sided pages with an 11-point font and 0.5 inch margin minimum. They should follow the format below:

Pages 1 & 2:

- Project Title
- Duration of the Project
- Funds Requested and Non-Federal Funds (must be a 2:1 match [2 match to 1 federal funding request])
- Principal and Co-Principal Investigators (include affiliations, phone, fax, and e-mail addresses)
- Project Description, consisting of these sections: Problem Statement, Project Objectives, Nature of the Proposed Research, Methods, Timeline, and Statement of Results or Benefits.

Page 3: Budget - see section VIII below.

Page 4: Brief professional biographies of the principal investigators.

VI. PRE-PROPOSAL SUBMITTAL

Complete pre-proposals must be sent as e-mail attachments in MS Word to Steve Guettermann, stephen.guettermann@montana.edu. Before the deadline, please notify the Water Center of your intent to submit a pre-proposal by contacting Mr. Guettermann. Pre-proposals must arrive by 5:00 p.m. October 16, 2009. Please scan files for viruses before sending them as attachments.

VII. PROJECT FUNDING

The amount available for these grants is anticipated to total approximately \$52,000. No more than \$17,000 will be awarded for any individual project. Last year's grants were in the range \$4,000-\$15,000.

Applicants must match each federal dollar requested with not less than two non-federal dollars. Successful pre-proposal applicants will need to submit one or more letters of match commitment at the time they submit their full proposals, and those who are issued awards will be required to track and document their match expenditures.

No indirect costs may be charged to these grants. The amount of IDC returns foregone on both the federal and match portions of the funding should form the basis of the match. Water Center personnel will be happy to help applicants craft their budgets, if they aren't familiar with these requirements and this format.

Selected proposals will be forwarded to the USGS for review and approval. Awards will be made to the Water Center, and from the Water Center to grantees. Grantees and their departments will be responsible for their own budget tracking.

VIII. BUDGET BREAKDOWN. (See example format table below). Allowable costs are defined by OMB Circular A21: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/circulars/a021/a021.html>. The project budget should comprise the following line items, with each broken down into federal request and match:

1. Salaries and Wages. Identify the individuals and categories of salaries and wages, estimated hours or percentage of time, and the compensation rate. Tuition remission and other forms of compensation paid as or in lieu of wages to students are allowable provided that the tuition or other payments are reasonable compensation for the work performed and are conditioned explicitly upon the performance of necessary work.
2. Fringe Benefits. Calculate rates/amounts in conformity with the university's current standard. Show the basis of the rate computation.
3. Supplies. Indicate estimates for office, laboratory, computing, and field supplies. Provide detail on any specific item that represents a significant portion of the proposed amount.
4. Equipment. Identify nonexpendable personal property having a useful life of more than one (1) year and an acquisition cost of more than \$5,000 per unit.
5. Services or consultants. Identify the project tasks for which these services would be used. List the anticipated consultants, the estimated amount of time required, and the quoted rate per day or hour.
6. Travel. Show the number of trips, type of trip (field, scientific meeting, or conference attendance), destinations, number of travelers, per diem and local reimbursement rates allowed by the applicant, and any miscellaneous expenses for each trip.

7. Other direct costs. Itemize the costs not included elsewhere; e.g., shipping, telemetry, computing, equipment-use charges, age dating or other services. Provide breakdowns showing how the cost was estimated.

8. Indirect costs. Specify the entire project's indirect costs in the non-federal column based on the university's current federal rate agreement (check with your Office of Sponsored Programs for your most recent rate).

9. Total estimated costs. Total items (1) through (8).

SAMPLE BUDGET BREAKDOWN
 Montana Water Resources Seed Grant Program
 Water Resources Research Act Section 104b

Project Title:

Principal Investigator(s):

BUDGET CATEGORIES	FEDERAL	MATCH non-federal	TOTAL
1. Salaries and Wages			
Susie Smith, Assistant Professor			
John Jones, Assistant Professor			
Jim Brown, MS Student			
Total Salaries & Wages:			
2. Fringe Benefits XX% faculty, YY% students			
3. Supplies			
4. Equipment			
5. Services or Consultants			
6. Travel			
7. Other Direct Costs			
8. Total Direct Charges			
9. Indirect Charges (__ % rate)	XXXXXXXXXX		*
10. Total Estimated Cost	(≤\$17,000)		(≥2xfederal)