



REQUEST FOR CONCEPT PROPOSALS FOR NORTH COAST RESOURCE PARTNERSHIP Demonstration Projects and Processes

BACKGROUND

The [North Coast Resource Partnership](#) (NCRP) is an innovative, stakeholder-driven collaboration among local governments, Tribes, watershed groups, and other interested partners focused on integrated resource planning and local project implementation in California’s North Coast region. Since 2005, the NCRP has successfully integrated federal, state, regional and local priorities and utilized a multi-benefit approach to identify and seek funding for the highest priority projects throughout the region. The focus of the NCRP includes forest and watershed health, salmonid recovery, water quality and supply, intra-regional cooperation, energy independence, climate change mitigation and adaptation, public health and economic vitality, with a specific emphasis on projects that benefit economically disadvantaged communities. The partnership is led by a Policy Review Panel comprised of elected officials from Tribes and counties, relies on scientific and technical review from staff and a Technical Peer Review Committee, and is informed by a broad and diverse stakeholder community. For more information about the NCRP please see the [NCRP website](#) and the [NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Review & Selection Process Guidelines](#).

The NCRP oversees the development and regular updates of various planning documents, including the [North Coast Resource Partnership Plan](#) and other plans related to its mission. The NCRP planning framework supports regional planning while recognizing that “one size does not fit all” – relying upon and respecting local autonomy, jurisdictions, and planning processes.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL SUMMARY

The NCRP was awarded \$4.25 million in funding from the California Natural Resources Agency and Department of Conservation for the identification, planning and implementation of local and regional projects to improve forest health and increase fire resiliency. The goal of the forestry block grant awarded to the NCRP is to develop a North Coast Regional Priority Plan (RPP) that will include a comprehensive and integrated set of strategies, actions and projects to support forest and community

health and long-term resilience to wildfire. Nearly \$1.8 million of the funding will go to fund demonstration processes and on-the-ground projects designed to test concepts, methods, and innovative techniques to identify effective management practices for fuel load reduction and forest health that can be quantified and scaled up in the region and elsewhere. Please see the [NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant Work Plan](#) and the [NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Planning webpage](#) for more information.

Sub-grants for demonstration projects will be allocated based on the project's ability to achieve the goals of fuel load reduction, long term forest and ecosystem health, local jobs and revenue, workforce development, support for local infrastructure, innovation and capacity enhancement. The NCRP expects to issue subgrant agreements for demonstration projects in two rounds of funding during the spring of 2020 and all projects will need to be completed by July 30, 2021. All demonstration project activities must be conducted within the boundary of the NCRP region.

These demonstration projects and processes – while focused on forest management and fuel load reduction – will be intentionally targeted to integrate with community preparedness and fire adapted community efforts funded by other sources. Project proponents shall propose an approach to develop and collect data, performance measures, and project outcomes/lessons learned, and will work with NCRP staff to document and integrate into the RPP on an ongoing basis to ensure adaptive learning and information sharing from the demonstration projects and processes.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposal Packet

All proposals will include a Proposal Cover Page (Exhibit A) along with Specific Proposal Requirements as described below including an Organization Statement of Qualifications, signed NCRP [Memorandum of Mutual Understandings](#), Budget & Schedule (Exhibit B) and Concept Proposal template (Exhibit C).

Delivery of Proposals

Proposals should be emailed to Katherine Gledhill at kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com. The deadline for submission of proposals is 5:00 p.m. on March 13, 2020. Proposals arriving after the deadline will not be considered.

Inquiries

No phone calls will be accepted. Written questions may be submitted to Katherine Gledhill at kgledhill@westcoastwatershed.com by 5:00 p.m. on February 28. Responses to all written questions will be posted to the NCRP website on March 3, 2020.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include Federally recognized Indian Tribes, California State Indian Tribe, public agencies, local or state agency/special districts, Resource Conservation Districts, non-profit

organizations, public utilities, private businesses, consulting firms and other private entities with adequate insurance coverage (see insurance requirements below).

SPECIFIC PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **Proposal Cover Page** (*Exhibit A*)
2. Signed NCRP [Memorandum of Mutual Understandings](#).
3. **Organization Statement of Qualifications**, including key personnel and their qualifications, proposed sub-contractors, hourly rates, references, and list/hyperlinks to examples of relevant work that support the proposal (maximum 5 pages)
4. **Demonstration Project and Processes Concept Proposal Budget and Schedule** (*Exhibit B*)
5. **Concept Proposal for Demonstration Projects and Processes** (*Exhibit C*, maximum 5 pages) that demonstrate an understanding of the NCRP and the NCRP RFFC grant goals and objectives and describes a proposed approach for demonstration projects, including (but not limited to) innovations in vegetation management, evaluation of new equipment and practices, tool/template development, innovative programmatic approaches to regulation/permitting, policy enhancements, economic innovations and opportunities.

Please note that all demonstration projects must meet criteria in the RFFC grant – they must be scalable, replicable, measurable, innovative and result in outcomes that will increase the scope and scale of multi-benefit forest management in the North Coast. Demonstration projects and processes should be completed no later than July 2021.

Below is a table that includes a listing of potential activities for demonstration projects – this list is not all inclusive – the NCRP welcomes innovations that proposers feel will best meet the NCRP RFFC objectives.

Project Goal	Potential Project Activity for Demonstration Projects
Improve forest health to promote growth in forest stands with enhanced resistance to impacts of wildfire and infestation	Forest thinning in overly dense forest stands
	Forest thinning and vegetation clearing within high risk ignition areas
	Creation of non-vegetated fuel break
	Forest thinning to create shaded fuel breaks (ridges, roads, other)
Restoration of forest habitat through reforestation	Reforestation
Grassland and meadow restoration	Reduction of competing vegetation to sustain natural meadows and pastures (grasslands)

Project Goal	Potential Project Activity for Demonstration Projects
Reduce Invasive Species	Treatment to reduce populations of non-native species
Balance of native species	Address species that are out of balance (e.g., firs vs oaks)
GHG removals from carbon sequestration	Reforestation of native species
	Enhance long-term growth rates and older trees through stocking control
	Create and/or utilize biochar
Avoided GHG Emissions from Catastrophic Fire	Reduce horizontal and vertical continuity of forest stands resulting in reduced probability of emissions associated with destructive fires
	Generate and/or utilize bioenergy
Improve Economic Vitality	Generate local revenue
	Create jobs
	Sustain wood processing facilities
	Develop new wood processing facilities
Job Training	Train workers in forest jobs
	Train workers in wood processing jobs
Research and Development	Test or operationalize new equipment
	Test or operationalize new technologies
Protect Life and Human Assets	Creation of defensible space
	Creation of safe roads for firefighting and evacuation
Education	Fire prevention education/outreach
	Forest ecology training
Enhance Public Safety	Removal of dead and dying trees
	Avoiding combustion of materials onsite or performing combustion onsite that reduces fire-related particulates compared to unplanned wildfire
Protect Salmonid Habitat	Forest management practices that lead to enhanced resilience in watersheds that support anadromous fisheries
Protect Critical Habitat	Forest management practices that lead to enhanced resilience in watersheds that support state or federal listed species (other than anadromous fish)
Protect and Improve Water Supply	Forest management practices that lead to enhanced water supply, quality, capture, infiltration, and storage
Increase North Coast Forest Health Knowledge	Convene Tribal inter/intra learning and documentation of TEK practices
	Research in support of increasing scope and scale of forest management activities
Policy / Regulatory /Funding Enhancement	Policy, funding and regulatory outcomes that enhance ability to conduct activities
	Innovations in market-based approaches and public private partnerships;
	Innovations in regulatory streamlining;
Support Fire Prevention Planning	Innovations in policy solutions that will achieve RFFC and NCRP objectives
	Compile best practices, and share lessons learned with others and/or participate in regional planning efforts

PROPOSAL SELECTION AND CONTRACTING

Proposals will be evaluated based on a selection process developed by the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Ad Hoc committee appointed by the NCRP leadership comprised of NCRP Policy Review Panel and Technical Peer Review Committee members. The specific criteria used to evaluate and rank the proposals submitted for this RFP are listed below and the [NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Review & Selection Process Guidelines](#).

Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- a) Demonstrated successful outcomes and work products for projects and approaches similar in nature to the demonstration proposal submitted;
- b) Demonstrated experience with and knowledge of county and Tribal planning and implementation projects;
- c) Clear evidence that the proposal supports the objectives of the NCRP RFFC grant;
- d) Knowledge and understanding of the North Coast region, the NCRP and its goals, objectives, and work accomplished to date; demonstrated understanding of the goals and objectives of the NCRP RFFC grant;
- e) The project's ability to model and share key practices;
- f) The project's ability to test new and innovative methods and tools;
- g) The project's ability to be scaled up and applied to other areas in the region and state;
- h) Integration with community wildfire adaptation efforts;
- i) Demonstrated ability to perform work in a cost-effective and efficient manner – proven ability to be creative in leveraging limited financial resources;
- j) Project readiness;
- k) A clear approach to measuring and reporting project effectiveness including data management, performance measures, and assessing project outcomes and lessons learned;
- l) Local preference will be given to project sponsors from within the North Coast region: the most technically qualified proposals will be ranked most highly – all other things being equal, the local proposer will be selected.

Contract Agreements

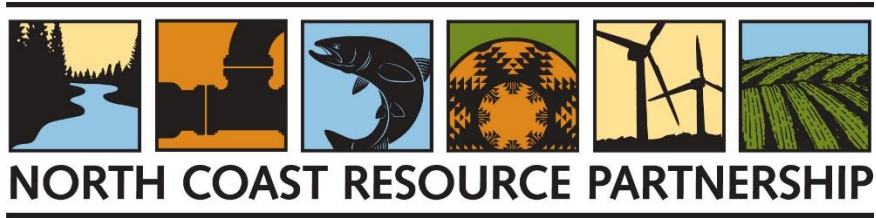
The NCRP expects to issue subgrant agreements for demonstration projects in two rounds of funding to ensure that project proponents have more than one opportunity to submit. The NCRP anticipates issuing several small and medium sized subcontracts to project sponsors, ranging from \$25,000-\$250,000. These projects are expected to be completed by July 2021 to ensure that the outcomes and lessons learned can be incorporated into the NCRP Regional Priority Plan.

Staff managing the selected proposals will work closely with the NCRP staff team to develop a detailed scope of work, schedule, budget, and list of work products within four weeks of notification. The NCRP reserves the right to select all or part of a demonstration project proposal and may request amendments to the proposal to ensure that the project demonstrates innovative approaches and methods and is transferrable to other parts of the region. NCRP staff may ask proposers who have identified projects in similar geographic or thematic areas to consider working together.

Insurance Requirements

1. Comprehensive or Commercial General Liability Insurance at least as broad as Insurance Services Office Commercial General Liability Coverage (occurrence form CG 0001), in an amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) per occurrence for any one incident, including, but not limited to, personal injury, death and property damage. If a general aggregate limit is used, such limit shall apply separately hereto or shall be twice the required occurrence limit.
2. Automobile/Motor Liability Insurance with a limit of liability not less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) combined single limit coverage. Such insurance shall include coverage of all owned, hired and non-owned vehicles. Said coverage shall be at least as broad as Insurance Service Office Form Code 1 (any auto).
3. Workers' Compensation Insurance, as required by the Labor Code of the State of California, with statutory limits, and Employers Liability Insurance with a limit of no less than One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) per accident for bodily injury or disease. Said policy shall contain, or be endorsed to contain, a waiver of subrogation against the County of Humboldt, its agents, officers, officials, employees and volunteers.

Please note, if the project does not involve travel and/or the project sponsor does not have employees, insurance requirements may be altered at the discretion of Humboldt County Risk Management.



**EXHIBIT A
PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

Proposal Type

Concept Proposal for Demonstration Projects and Processes

Organization Name (Lead Applicant)

Organization Type

- Federally recognized Indian Tribe
 - California State Indian Tribe
 - Public agency
 - Local or state agency/special district
 - Resource Conservation District
 - Non-profit organization
 - Public utility
 - Other: _____
-

Contact Name/Title

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number (include area code): _____

Organization Address (City, County, State, Zip Code):

Authorized Representative (if different from the contact name)

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number (include area code): _____

Certification of Authority

By signing below, the person executing the certificate on behalf of the proposer affirmatively represents that s/he has the requisite legal authority to do so on behalf of the proposer. Both the person executing this proposal on behalf of the proposer and proposer understand that the NCRP is relying on this representation in receiving and considering this proposal. The person signing below hereby acknowledges that s/he has read the entire Request for Proposals document and has complied with all requirements listed therein.

Official Authorized to Sign for Proposal

Signature

Date

EXHIBIT B
DEMONSTRATION PROJECT AND PROCESSES CONCEPT PROPOSAL BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Project Name: _____

(an Excel version of this budget may be downloaded at the following link though is not required: [Demonstration Project Budget and Schedule Excel Template](#))

Major Tasks	Task Description	NCRP Task Budget	Funding Match *	Total Task Budget	Scaled NCRP Budget **	Start Date	End Date
Project Administration	In cooperation with the County of Humboldt sign a sub-grantee agreement for work to be completed on this project. Develop invoices with support documentation.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Project Reporting	Data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes/lessons learned	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
	[ADD ROWS AS NEEDED]	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Project Closeout		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
Total NCRP 2020 Demonstration Project Request		\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00		
* List the sources and status of matching funds: [PLEASE LIST]							
** Is Requested Budget scalable? If yes, indicate scaled totals; if no leave as \$0. Project scalability information for the reviewers (optional):							

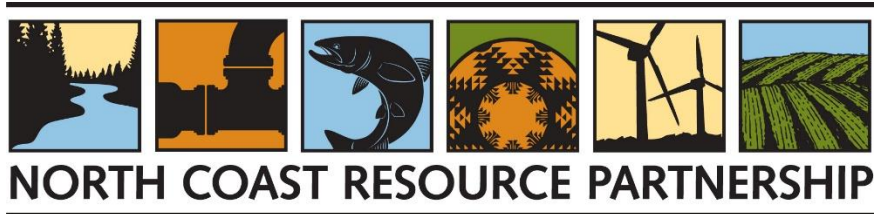


EXHIBIT C

CONCEPT PROPOSAL FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS AND PROCESSES

Please complete a Concept Proposal (maximum 5 pages) that demonstrate an understanding of the NCRP and the NCRP RFFC grant goals and objectives and describes a proposed approach for demonstration projects, including (but not limited to) innovations in vegetation management, evaluation of new equipment and practices, tool/template development, programmatic approaches to regulation/permitting, policy enhancements, economic innovations and opportunities.

Project Name:

1. Project Description [2000 characters max.]
The Project Description should include: the intended purpose of the project; a problem statement: why the project or process is needed; setting and background; the major components of the project or process; a description of how the project or process will be implemented; and a summary of the expected benefits, and detailed information about how this project or process supports and achieves the objectives of the NCRP RFFC objectives.
2. Specific Project Goals/Objectives
3. Describe how the project or process addresses the [NCRP Goals and Objectives](#) and the intent of the [NCRP Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant](#).
4. Describe how the project is scalable, replicable, measurable, innovative and results in outcomes that will increase the scope and scale of multi-benefit forest management in the North Coast.
5. Describe the need for the project and how the project addresses forest health and climate change/extreme event resiliency.
6. Describe the location and size of the project and the communities served by this project.
7. List and describe the partnerships involved in the project and local and/or political support.
8. List the estimated quantifiable, measurable benefits expected to result from the proposed project.
9. List any scientific studies, plans, designs or reports completed for the project or process.
10. Describe the approach to data collection, performance measures, and project reporting of outcomes/lessons learned.