



APPLICATION FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (Request for Project Concept Proposals)

The North Coast Resource Partnership (NCRP) is pleased to offer project development technical assistance through the NCRP Regional Forest & Fire Capacity (RFFC) program for projects that improve forest health, increase fire resiliency and adapt to climate change. Direct technical assistance will be provided by a team of regional experts and may include site assessment, mapping and GIS analysis, greenhouse gas calculations, cost estimates, permitting support, project benefits quantification and preliminary project design. The purpose of the technical assistance support is to help build projects that are permit ready and competitive for funding and implementation. The NCRP expects to provide between \$5,000-\$15,000 in technical assistance support for priority projects over multiple rounds of funding.

*To apply for the project technical assistance, please submit a concept proposal that describes the project and the nature of the technical assistance requested. **The deadline for submission of the project development concept proposals for technical assistance is October 15, 2020.***

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 composed of elected Tribal members and county officials, 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](#).

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.

The NCRP has a long history of providing technical assistance to North Coast Tribal and disadvantaged communities to support and develop local and regional projects that promote integrated and multi-benefit outcomes in the North Coast region. The NCRP was awarded a grant from the [Department of Conservation, Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program Block Grant](#) which has funding intended to identify and provide technical assistance for local and regional projects to support forest and community health and long-term resilience to wildfire. 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.

PROJECT CONCEPT PROPOSALS: IDENTIFYING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE NEEDS

The NCRP is issuing this [Request for Project Concept Proposals](#) to identify project development technical assistance needs in the North Coast region that meet the criteria defined by the Department of Conservation and the North Coast Resource Partnership.

A team of technical advisors made up of regional experts will be paid by the NCRP and made available to provide one-on-one technical assistance and capacity building to those interested in creating and developing projects that improve forest health and fire resilience. Types of technical assistance may include site assessment, grant tool assistance, mapping and GIS analysis, greenhouse gas calculations or associated cost estimates, help with permitting, project benefits quantification, and preliminary project design/reports.

The level of technical assistance will be made available based on how well the project concept aligns with the NCRP proposal evaluation criteria and how much assistance the applicant requires for project development. The typical value of technical assistance for this round is anticipated to be in the range of \$5,000 to \$15,000 per entity.

Following is a table that includes a listing of potential goals and activities that may be components of a multi-benefit project, eligible for technical assistance. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list.

Project Goal	Potential Project Activity
Improve forest health to promote growth in forest stands with enhanced resistance to wildfire risks and insect and disease threat	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)
	Prescribed fire forest fuel treatment
Restoration of forest habitat through reforestation	Reforestation prescriptions that adapt to climate change
Grassland, meadow and oak woodland restoration	Reduction of competing vegetation to sustain natural meadows, pastures (grasslands) and oak woodlands
Reduce Invasive Species	Treatment to reduce populations of non-native, invasive species
Restore diversity and balance of native species	Address species that are out of ecological balance (e.g., conifers vs oaks due to fire suppression)
GHG removals from carbon sequestration	Reforestation of native species in understocked areas
	Enhance long-term growth rates and larger trees through stocking control

	Create and/or utilize biochar
Avoided GHG Emissions from uncharacteristically large wildfires	Reduce horizontal and vertical continuity of forest stands resulting in reduced probability of emissions associated with high-severity wildfires
	Generate and/or utilize bioenergy
Improve Economic Vitality	Generate local revenue
	Create jobs
	Sustain existing wood processing facilities
	Develop new wood processing facilities and innovative wood products
Job Training	Train workers in forest, watershed and water management 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 around structures
	Creation of safe roads for fire suppression access and evacuation
	Creation of programs for hardening homes
Education	Fire prevention education and outreach
	Forest ecology, management and restoration training
	Educational programs for youth and children
Enhance Public Safety	Removal of dead and dying trees
	Improve flood protection and forest resiliency to reduce public safety impacts associated with floods and wildfires
	Emergency evacuation planning
Protect Salmonid Habitat	Forest and water management practices that lead to enhanced resilience in watersheds that support anadromous fisheries
Protect Critical Habitat	Forest and water management practices that lead to enhanced resilience in watersheds that support state or federal listed species
Protect and Improve Water Supply	Forest and water 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 active 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 permitting and regulatory streamlining
	Innovations in policy solutions that will achieve RFFC and NCRP objectives
Support Fire Prevention Planning	Compile best practices, and share lessons learned with others and/or participate in regional planning efforts

SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONCEPT PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Proposal Packet

1. **Proposal Cover Page (Exhibit A)**; downloadable PDF form: [Proposal Cover Page \(Exhibit A\)](#)
2. **Project Technical Assistance Concept Proposal (Exhibit B, maximum 5 pages)** that demonstrates an understanding of the NCRP goals and objectives, describes potential project activities that promote forest and watershed health, fuel load reduction, salmonid recovery, water quality and supply, intra-regional cooperation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, public health *and/or* economic vitality. The concept proposal must also demonstrate a clear need for Technical Assistance to develop the proposed multi-benefit project. A project concept proposal template can be found as Exhibit B.
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. Signed NCRP [Memorandum of Mutual Understandings](#).

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 October 15, 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 September 25. Responses to all written questions will be posted to the NCRP website on September 29.

Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants include federally recognized Indian Tribes, California State Indian Tribes, public agencies, local or state agency/special districts, Resource Conservation Districts, non-profit organizations, and public utilities.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION & SELECTION FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Proposals for technical assistance will be evaluated based on a selection process developed by the NCRP RFFC ad hoc committee appointed by the NCRP leadership. Additional support for proposal evaluation may be provided by NCRP technical consultants as requested. Technical assistance proposals will be evaluated by staff using the criteria developed by the ad hoc committee and will recommend a suite of projects based on available funding. NCRP RFFC ad hoc committee will consider the draft suite of projects and make the final selection. The specific criteria used to evaluate and rank the proposals for technical assistance submitted for this RFP are listed below. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria and scored on a 0 – 10 basis, with a weighting factor applied where:

1. A score of 9-10 points will be awarded where the criterion is fully addressed, achieves significant outcomes and is supported by thorough and well-presented documentation & logical rationale.
2. A score of 7-8 points will be awarded where the criterion is addressed, achieves significant outcomes but is not supported by thorough documentation or sufficient rationale.
3. A score of 5-6 points will be awarded where the criterion is addressed, achieves moderate outcomes and is supported by thorough and well-presented documentation & logical rationale.
4. A score of 3-4 points will be awarded where the criterion is marginally addressed, achieves moderate outcomes but is not supported by thorough documentation or sufficient rationale.
5. A score of 1-2 point will be awarded where the criterion is marginally addressed, but achieves outcomes that are low in significance.
6. A score of 0 points will be awarded where the criterion is not addressed.

NCRP PROPOSAL SCORING CRITERIA	WEIGHTING FACTOR	Range of Points
Project type and sponsor eligibility		y/n
Demonstration that the project technical assistance needs are reasonable, justifiable and can be effectively addressed by the technical assistance team.		y/n
Demonstrated successful outcomes, permitting viability and work products for projects similar in nature to the project proposal submitted	1	0 – 10
A Project Description that includes a clear problem statement, intended purpose and appropriate solution	2	0 – 20
The goals and objectives of the Proposal help to achieve the goals and objectives of the NCRP and objectives of the NCRP RFFC grant	1	0 – 10
The project implements effective strategies, provides multiple benefits of significant magnitude	2	0 – 20
Need for the project and demonstration that the project is clearly supported by and important to the local community and region	2	0 – 20
The project is located in and substantially benefits an economically disadvantaged community or severely disadvantaged community	2	0 – 20
TOTAL SCORE		0 - 100



**EXHIBIT A
PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

Project Name

Organization Name

Organization Type

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

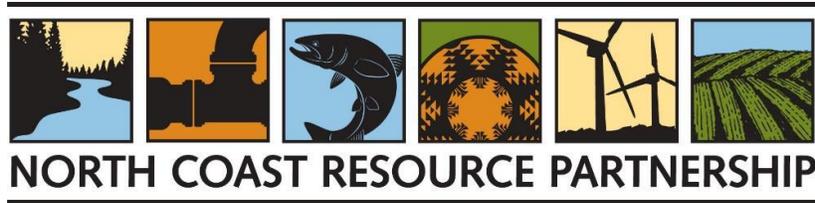


EXHIBIT B CONCEPT PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

Please complete a Concept Proposal for Project Development and Technical Assistance (maximum 5 pages) that demonstrates an understanding of the NCRP goals and objectives, describes potential project activities that promote forest and watershed health, fuel load reduction, salmonid recovery, intra-regional cooperation, climate change mitigation/ adaptation, public health **and/or** economic vitality. The concept proposal must also demonstrate a clear need for Technical Assistance to develop the proposed project.

Project Name: _____

1. Project Abstract [750 characters max.]
2. 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.
3. List and describe specific Project Goals/Objectives
4. Describe how the project addresses the [North Coast Resource Partnership Goals and Objectives](#)
5. Describe the need for the project and how the project addresses forest health, fire resiliency, and adaptation to climate change.
6. Describe the location and size of the project and the communities served by this project.
7. Indicate whether the project provides direct benefits to a project area comprised of Tribes, Disadvantaged Communities or Severely Disadvantaged Communities and list these communities. [[NCRP Interactive Map](#)]
8. Describe how the project addresses the need of the communities listed above.
9. List and describe the partnerships involved in the project and local and/or political support.
10. List the estimated benefits expected to result from the proposed project.
11. List the approximate project cost and potential sources of matching funds, amounts and indicate their status.
12. List any scientific studies, plans, designs or engineering reports related to the project.
13. Describe the specific technical assistance needed to fully develop the project and why technical assistance is requested from your organization.