



Date: April 22, 2013
To: CA LCC Steering Committee
From: Rebecca Fris, Science Coordinator
Subject: 2013 funding recommendations and Science Strategy Framework process
**Action: 1. Approve Statement of Interest for Science Delivery and
2. Agree to Steps for Science Framework process**

FY 2013 Statement of Interest (SOI)

The Science-Manager Team (Attachment A) has met three times to discuss options for spending the approximately \$500,000 science money for FY13. The outcome from the last Science-Manager meeting was a recommendation to move forward with following:

- 1) To send out a Statement of Interest (SOI) for supplemental funding for existing projects with the emphasis on the science delivery and direct connection with managers,
- 2) Development of a Science Strategy and
- 3) Begin planning for Strategic Plan implementation in a couple ecoregions.

An SOI is attached (Attachment B) for existing CA LCC activities (about 15 projects) with a specific focus to assist in the delivery and translation of science products to their intended users. The emphasis is intended to increase the value added component of previously funded work and assist in the delivery of products to support those making natural resource decisions. For this SOI, we are not looking for the next phase of CA LCC funded research projects, but rather for ways to improve the science delivery of existing work to decision makers. For example, work may include outreach, meetings or workshops with managers and intended users, product or tool development, or training.

Steering Committee Action: Approve moving forward with SOI.

Timing for SOI

April 30	Send out SOI to existing CA LCC projects
May 15	SOI proposals due
May 15 – 30	SOI review by Review Team
Early June	Recommendation to Steering Committee for funding

Science Strategy Framework

Staff has been working on steps to develop a Science Strategy Framework this year. The intent is to work with a Science Strategy Team to refine the process, identify some broad landscape conservation goals and to provide direction on Strategic Plan implementation. Karen Thorne and I will go through the current thinking for this work on the Steering Committee call.

Steering Committee Action: Okay steps for Science Strategy Framework development and nominate members to the Science Strategy team.

Attachment A - CA LCC Science Manager Team members

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Organization</i>	<i>Scientific Expertise</i>	<i>Alternate</i>
Grant	Ballard	PRBO Conservation Science	Ecologist, marine and terrestrial systems; climate change impacts, and informatics	Sam Veloz
Giselle	Block	USFWS Inventory and Monitoring	Biologist, land management, refuges, invasive species and climate change	
Matt	Gerhart	State CC	Coastal conservation, environmental geography, climate change, ecosystem adaptation	
Armand	Gonzales	DFW	Birds, raptors, forest ecosystems, modeling, climate and renewable energy	Amber Pairis, Whitney Albright
Dave	Graber	NPS	Ecologist, conservation biologist, species-habitat relationships. Sierra Nevada ecosystems, wilderness.	
Andy	Gunther	BAECCC	Aquatic sciences, SF Bay and application of science to management problems	
John	Hopkins	CA HCP Coalition	Conservation planning for at risk species, upland and wetland species	
Chrissy	Howell	USFS	Terrestrial ecology, wildlife modeling, and spatial distribution modeling	
Rick	Kearney	FWS	Wildlife ecology, avian conservation, conservation biology, climate adaptation	
Javier	Linares	CA Fish Passage Forum	Fisheries	
Steve	Lindley	NMFS	Anadromous fish	
Koren	Nydick	NPS - Southern Sierra CC	Forest ecology	
Michelle	Selmon	DWR	Climate change adaptation, endangered species conservation and management	
Christina	Sloop	SFBJV	Ecologist, conservation geneticist; seasonal wetlands, invasive species control, endangered species conservation management, San Francisco Bay monitoring and evaluation	
Wayne	Spencer	CBI	Terrestrial wildlife ecology with a focus on rare mammals. Conservation planning, reserve design and connectivity conservation.	
Tom	Suchanek	USGS	General ecology, with focus on aquatic ecology (marine and freshwater), contaminants, anthropogenic impacts and climate change	
Greg	Yarris	CVJV	Vertebrate physiology. Avian ecology, waterfowl and wetlands management	
Christine	Albano	Southwest CSC	Terrestrial and freshwater ecology	



Attachment B

FY 2013 Statement of Interest Request

Strategic Plan Implementation

Science Delivery for Existing CA LCC projects

April 2013

Background

The California Landscape Conservation Cooperative (CA LCC) has approximately \$500,000 in FY 2013 funds to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan. This call for statements of interest (SOI) requesting supplemental funds is **focused on the delivery of science products to natural resource managers from existing CA LCC funded projects**. Any work must be consistent with the recently adopted Strategic Plan that identifies three primary objectives:

- 1) Conduct and coordinate information exchange among scientists and managers to advance decision-making and conservation at a landscape scale
- 2) Enhance climate-smart conservation at a landscape scale
- 3) Provide effective and lasting outcomes that support California's diverse and thriving ecosystems

Work proposed under this SOI will most closely link with Objective 1.

2013 CA LCC Priority

The priority for FY 2013 funding is to begin implementation of the Strategic Plan and to specifically provide supplemental funds to assist in the delivery and translation of science products to their intended users. The emphasis is intended to increase the value added component of previously funded work and assist in the delivery of products to support those making natural resource decisions. For this SOI, we are not looking for the next phase of CA LCC funded research projects, but rather for ways to improve the science delivery of existing work to decision makers. For example, work may include outreach, meetings or workshops with managers and intended users, product or tool development, or training.

Our expectation is that with modest supplemental funds, we can significantly increase the value and accessibility of what has been and is being produced for the natural resource managers and to demonstrate how efforts supported by the CA LCC are making a difference for our partners.

How to Submit a Statement of Interest

The template below identifies the information needed from existing projects. Each SOI should be 10 point font or larger and no longer than 2 pages. Support letters are not included in the 2 page limit.

- SOI should be between \$25,000 - \$50,000
- Funding for 1- year duration
- Estimated number of awards is 4 - 8
- Statement of Interest deadline – May 15, 2013

The SOI's will be evaluated based on the following criteria.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Relevance to Natural Resource Managers** – Work is directly applicable or aimed at informing a management need, and identifies who is or will be using the products and how the products support specific conservation or adaptation decisions. **A letter of support is required from an organization or resource manager that describes how they are or will be using the products.**
2. **Value-added** – the additional work will build on existing work and products to enhance the value to specific resource managers and improve science delivery of the project deliverables.
3. **Capacity** – the ability of the project team to accomplish the work including staff capabilities, appropriate experience and range of expertise
4. **Project Performance** – deliverables from the existing project have been received in a timely manner and are of high quality and useful.

CA LCC Statement of Interest Template

Section 1 – General Information (1/2 page)

- Title of Existing Project
- Project Lead and Organization
- Contact Information (address, phone, email)
- Ecoregion for the work (Refer to map in CA LCC Strategic Plan)

Section 2 – Management Relevance/Partners Involved (1/2 page)

- Explanation of how work implements the CA LCC Strategic Plan
- Describe management need being addressed by the science products– Include one letter from a specific organization or manager that is or will be using the products (2 pages max in length)
- Identify the relevant partner(s) and their participation in the project

Section 3 - Work Summary – (1 page)

- Status of existing product deliverables and outreach efforts
- Description of additional work relative to existing work
- Description of value added to existing work
- Staff involvement and capabilities
- Timeline for deliverables

Section 4 – Budget – fill out template

- Estimated budget (include indirect costs and any in-kind contributions)

Email the SOI to Rebecca_Fris@fws.gov by May 15, 2013. For questions please email or call Rebecca Fris at 916-278-9415.