



Fisheries Restoration Grant Program 2023 Proposal Solicitation Notice

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated January 2023

Have there been any updates since last year's PSN?

Yes, a few updates were made from the 2022 PSN, most of which were clarifying existing requirements except for the pre-proposal phase. Below is a list of more significant changes to the PSN and Guidelines.

- FRGP is implementing a required, Pre-Application phase to the solicitation.
- Scoresheet changes:
 - Engineering Scoresheet is now a standalone scoresheet removed from the biological scoresheets.
 - Added a scoresheet question in the Program Criteria Review to ensure proposals consider climate change in design and implementation.
 - The Species in the Spotlight bonus point was updated to be a flat +0.5, and now includes southern California steelhead.
 - The grace period will be continued, however there will not be point deductions.

- Character limits were lowered to encourage more succinct applications
- Included requirements for applicants to meet Build America, Buy America Act requirements.

What is process-based restoration?

Process-based restoration aims to re-establish the physical, chemical, and biological processes that sustain ecosystems (Beechie et al. 2010). Examples of processes include erosion and sediment transport, storage and routing of water, plant growth and successional processes, input of nutrients and thermal energy, and nutrient cycling in the aquatic food web. Process-based restoration, then, focuses on correcting anthropogenic disruptions to these processes, such that the river-floodplain ecosystem progresses along a recovery trajectory with minimal corrective intervention (Sear 1994, Wohl et al. 2005). Four process-based principles ensure that ecosystem restoration will be guided toward sustainable actions: (1) restoration actions should address the root causes of degradation, (2) actions must be consistent with the physical and biological potential of the site, (3) actions should be at a scale commensurate with environmental problems, and (4) actions should have clearly articulated expected outcomes for ecosystem dynamics (Beechie et al. 2010). Applying these principles will help avoid common pitfalls in restoration, such as creating habitat types that are outside of a site's natural potential, attempting to build static habitats in dynamic environments, or constructing habitat features that are ultimately overwhelmed by unconsidered system drivers. Such actions restore river dynamics and natural variation in habitat conditions, which are inherently more sustainable and resilient than engineered channels or habitats.

Beechie TJ Sear DA Olden JD Pess GR Buffington JM Moir H Roni P Pollock MM . 2010. Process-based Principles for Restoring River Ecosystems. *BioScience* 60: 209-222.
https://www.fs.usda.gov/rm/pubs_other/rmrs_2010_beechie_t001.pdf

Sear DA. 1994. River restoration and geomorphology. *Aquatic Conservation* 4: 169–177.

Wohl E Angermeier PL Bledsoe B Kondolf GM MacDonnell L Merritt DM Palmer MA Poff NL Tarboton D. 2005. River restoration. *Water Resources Research* 41: W10301.

Do I need to submit a separate MO proposal to complete project type required monitoring?

No. Only proposals wishing to “determine if restoration treatment and features have produced the desired habitat response and/or physical watershed processes” need to submit a separate MO proposal. Projects carrying out monitoring required in the Project Type Requirements do not need a separate MO proposal.

Can I submit paper copies of my application by mail or bring it to your office?

No. All applications, including attachments, must be submitted online at the [CDFW WebGrants website](#).

Can CDFW suggest project partners that can help develop a project for an applicant?

Due to the competitive nature of the solicitation, CDFW is unable to offer project development guidance to applicants while the solicitation is open.

Can I copy and resubmit my application from last year under the current 2023 Solicitation?

Yes. However, there have been some updates to the application from last year's PSN. Be prepared to review every form and add or update information as needed. Also note that the Budget forms will **not** be copied over. It is your responsibility to ensure that your application is complete and accurate.

As an eligible applicant, can I submit more than one proposal in response to the Solicitation?

Yes. The program will evaluate each submitted proposal independently and on its individual merit.

I want to submit a proposal application with more than one Project Type. Is this allowable?

Yes. However, an applicant must identify in the application the one project type that best describes the proposed project. The application will be reviewed and scored on the identified project type. If more than one project type is incorporated into a proposal all applicable Guideline documents and information must be provided.

Will a project required as mitigation or other compliance obligations be eligible for funding in this program?

No. Funds cannot be used for projects required to meet environmental mitigation or compliance measures. Similarly, any project that is under an enforcement action by a regulatory agency will not be considered for funding.

Why is my waterway and/or watershed not included in the 2023 FRGP Focus Watershed Table? How can I get the watershed added to the table?

It takes a coordinated effort of State and Federal agencies to develop the FRGP Focus Table and mostly prior to the Solicitation release. Suggestions on adding a waterway and/or watershed into a future table may be sent to the appropriate recovery plan coordinator (see contacts in Appendix B of the Guidelines).

Can I use Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Act (HREA) approval in lieu of a Lake and Streambed Alteration, if my project includes dewatering and fish exclusion/relocation?

Yes. An applicant may use HREA approval for a qualified project. If awarded funding, the applicant/grantee will also need to obtain any additionally required permits.

Is cost share or match required for me to apply to your program?

No. Neither cost share nor match is required. However, the proportion of cost share/match relative to the total project cost is assessed points in the scoring criteria.

What criteria are used to score proposals?

The criteria used to score proposals are in Appendix B of the Guidelines.

Can I charge less overhead in my budget than allowed through my NICRA and use the unclaimed portion as cost share or match?

No. An applicant or subcontractor that already has a federally Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA) should use the approved rate. If the applicant does not have a federally approved rate, then the prevailing federal de minimis rate (10%) should be used. It is the responsibility of the applicant to comply with all applicable laws and regulations for their project.

Is it possible to increase the requested funding amount after proposal application or before, during, or after the grant execution?

Due to the competitive process, grant award is limited to the amount requested in the proposal. CDFW is unable to increase the requested funding amount.

If awarded a grant, are sub-recipients/subcontractors required to follow the same indirect rules as the grantee?

Yes. All recipients of the grant fund including sub-recipients/subcontractors must follow the same federal uniform guidance.

Where can I find more guidance on interpreting the Federal Uniform Guidance?

The Federal Uniform Guidance 2017 (2 CFR 200) is available on the [Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website](#). Additional helpful resources on 2 CFR 200 can be found in the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) prepared by the Office of Management and Budget.