

Draft Individual Review Form

Proposal number: 2001-G200-2

Short Proposal Title: Canal Ranch Habitat Restoration Phase III Demonstration Project

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

The hypothesis and objective are clearly stated, but extend beyond the scope of this proposal in one respect. The primary purpose of this proposal is the acquisition of Canal Ranch which means the restoration efforts are not part of phase III. Data needed for any scientific analysis will be acquired in phase IV, which begins with monitoring activities.

1b1) Does the conceptual model clearly explain the underlying basis for the proposed work?

The underlying scientific basis, seen through benefits species may experience, are outlined. However, no sources of information upon which this model is based are included, except a reference to a conceptual plan developed in 1996. If restoration activities are an important part of this proposal, then details from that 1996 conceptual plan should be well integrated into this proposal and not lightly outlined.

1b2) Is the approach well designed and appropriate for meeting the objectives of the project?

Yes, in part, since the primary objective is the acquisition of Canal Ranch. As for restoration, the experimental design is not clear. Under the monitoring and assessment section, what will be measured and observed is outlined, but it is not feasible to collect data from everywhere on Canal Ranch. Appropriate sampling procedures are lacking in this proposal.

1c1) Has the applicant justified the selection of research, pilot or demonstration project, or a full-scale implementation project?

The restoration potential, as well as a list of potential benefits to species, are outlined. Based on this, its classification as a pilot/demonstration project is justified.

1c2) Is the project likely to generate information that can be used to inform future decision making?

Scientifically, no. Phase III of this project, the subject of this proposal, will provide information on land acquisition. The scientific information, fundamental and necessary in future decision making will be acquired in phase IV of this project.

2a) Are the monitoring and information assessment plans adequate to assess the outcome of the project?

Yes, but details of sampling procedures are lacking. The proposal would be improved with inclusion of such procedures.

2b) Are data collection, data management, data analysis, and reporting plans well-described, scientifically sound and adequate to meet the proposed objectives?

Data collection needs to be more detailed with regard to sampling design. Data management, by entry into a database, seems adequate, but analysis of data is lacking in this proposal. How these data will be used is not adequately defined.

3) Is the proposed work likely to be technically feasible?

Yes, considering the primary objective is acquisition of Canal Ranch through easement or in fee purchase.

4) Is the proposed project team qualified to efficiently and effectively implement the proposed project?

Considering that the primary objective is to acquire the land via easement or in fee purchase, there are probably people with the necessary knowledge to perform the task within their organizations. The qualifications of the team will become paramount when actual restoration and monitoring activities are begun.

Miscellaneous comments

**Overall Evaluation
Summary Rating**

- Excellent
- Very Good
- Good
- Fair**
- Poor

Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating

The focus of the proposal is to acquire Canal Ranch. There is no clearly defined scientific methodology integrated into this proposal, which makes sense since that is not its primary purpose. However, even though the objective does not correlate with the scientific approach, there is merit in acquiring land for future restoration activities.