

Draft Individual Review Form

Proposal number: 2001-G205-3

Short Proposal Title: Rice in the Delta

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes-The main objective, changing soil subsidence by converting corn, a furrow crop, to rice, a flood crop is clear from the objectives of the proposal. The hypothesis, that this conversion will decrease soil subsidence, will increase habitat use by said species, and show rice to be economically feasible to grow, is clear from this proposal

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

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes- the diagram used for the conceptual model was self-explanatory and leaves room for adaptive management. It encompasses many factors such as the economics, subsidence rate, water quality, and impact on wildlife... everything that was stated in the objectives and hypotheses was covered.

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

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

On most levels- one concern I would have is that 1 year for the 1,000 acre crop may not be enough to base a growing plan on (increasing to 5,000 acres the next year), in which case the authors may get skewed data and base their project after something that doesn't necessarily always happen. It would be a shame to do the larger scale acreage and the data not be valuable/usable. The design is looking at all of the right variables though. It seems like they took a lot of consideration in design.

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

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes and No- again, the 1 year for the 1,000 acres may be better extended into two years of baseline data.

It seems like they are getting a little ahead of themselves.

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

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Definitely! If the project works out as hoped, the rate of conversion to flooded/rice land could increase greatly which could be good economically as well as environmentally.

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

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

I liked their idea of using sample sizes from work that has been previously done but also realizing that it will have to be adapted to their particular area. One question I had after reading this section was how big are the four pair plots (described in the general description section) after harvest going to be? They went into a lot of detail describing the plots without giving measurements.

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

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes and No-Data collection is very thorough and will aid in answering all of the questions they are asking. Data analysis was not discussed but is necessary- what statistics will be used??? Reports available on request is fine for this type of project considering that it is private land.

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

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes- all parties is willing, the equipment is available and the knowledge has been gained previously or will be added by outside parties. It seems like there are a few different groups working toward one goal.

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

Provide detailed comments in support of your conclusion [Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

Yes-The team is qualified to carry out this project. They have all of the necessary components (biologist, agriculture specialists, landowners) for the plant to successfully implement this project.

Miscellaneous comments

[Note: in the electronic version, this will be an expandable field]

- I like the presentation of the null hypotheses and the hypotheses being supported by literature
- They need to get a data analysis plan but the collection and calculations are well thought out

<p>Overall Evaluation Summary Rating</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input type="checkbox"/> Very Good <input type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Poor</p>	<p>Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating</p> <p>Rating- very good This project seems scientifically based and could generate useful data.</p>
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