

Draft Individual Review Form

Proposal number:2001-H206-3

Short Proposal Title: Management Plans for Butte County Preserves

1a) Are the objectives and hypotheses clearly stated?

Objectives are clearly stated. Hypotheses are not. Community based watershed projects should include aspects of both science and social science. For example: “Students who participate in on-site educational activities will increase age-appropriate knowledge of riparian habitats” “Outreach events will increase local support for/enhance management of preserve.”

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

The conceptual model is poorly defined. The proposal did not articulate what would appear to be the basic conceptual model: that directed management of these properties will result in actions and results to support local and CALFED ecosystem goals. This proposal requests funds to develop the plans that will direct that management. Alternatively, the conceptual goal for this proposal at this early planning stage could be an articulation of community vision with management objectives for these properties (some good language exists in the section on Educational Objectives.)

General reference is made to supporting literature, but none are cited (pg 3, Conceptual Model - last line of second paragraph)

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

The proposal identifies processes (RFP) and tools (PAR) which are effective in the plan development proposed. The planning steps are well designed and appropriate. Some of the action items in Task 2 need to be evaluated for appropriateness as described elsewhere in this review.

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

The project, as described, could fit either the pilot/demonstration project, or full-scale implementation project, depending on your professional assessment of the state of land management science. Land management, done well, is an on-going adaptive management experiment and there is a long history of processes and practices to draw upon. However, it is also appropriate to consider this proposal a pilot/demonstration as new techniques are being explored.

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

Yes – Habitat assessments and RFP’s will provide information for adaptive management.

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

Monitoring and assessment plans will be developed as an element of the project.

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

N/A

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

The planning approach likely could be implemented in the projected timeline. One concern is that the actions identified in Task 2 should correlate with an overarching master plan, as identified in the figure “Steps in Creation and Management of the Preserve System in Perpetuity”. This figure indicates that master planning is underway; some tasks identified in this proposal are not supported by reference to a guiding document. So, certain tasks, such as 2B) repair road on Simmons Unit and 2D) establish nature trail, would seem premature since the management plan for the Simmons Unit is proposed to be developed under this proposal.

The proposal identifies many successful local partnerships that exist to support this project. I particularly appreciated reference to the existing CSU Chico student patrol as a successful model for involving students in patrolling the property (Task 2E)

A simple Gant chart would have been helpful to show relative timing of tasks.

Of the actions proposed, 2D could require permits (ie Stream crossings? Certain vegetation removal, etc.) depending on how the nature trail is structured. Construction of composting toilets may also require local permits.

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

There is a qualifications statement only for the Project Director. While he is infinitely qualified and experienced to implement a project of this scope, qualifications statements for the Project Manager, Field manger and Events and Activities Coordinator would be desirable. The proposal involves development of monitoring plans, but does not identify the qualifications of the Task Leaders who will be developing them.

Miscellaneous comments

Overall Evaluation **Provide a brief explanation of your summary rating**

Summary Rating

Tasks are strategic and targeted to needs. Conceptual model needs development and to better address how hypotheses will be developed if planning is funded. Proposal is implementable in proposed timeframe, with some questions on specific subtasks. Project director is well qualified; no information provided on other principle staff. CSU Chico and local community groups will support this proposal.

- Excellent
 - Very Good
 - Good
 - Fair
 - Poor
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