

Call for Expressions of Interest

Climate Change Adaptation Research for Forest & Rangeland Ecosystems

Future Forest Ecosystem Scientific Council of British Columbia

The Future Forest Ecosystem Scientific Council of BC (FFESC) invites Expressions of Interest from research teams to undertake interdisciplinary research that will help British Columbia adapt its forest and range management framework to anticipated effects of climate change.

Up to \$4 million is available over a 2 year period (Dec 2009 – Dec 2011) for integrated research projects. Research teams expressing interest will be invited to participate in an FFESC proposal development workshop in late April 2009. Please circulate this document to appropriate interested parties.

What is the Future Forest Ecosystem Scientific Council?

FFESC is a partnership among the British Columbia Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR), the University of British Columbia (UBC), and the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), established with one-time funding through the Province of British Columbia's Climate Action Plan. The purpose of FFESC is to promote scientific research that will assist MFR in ensuring (1) that BC's forest and range management and policy framework adapts to the anticipated effects of climate change and (2) that BC's forest and range ecosystems remain resilient to stress and continue to provide services of value to British Columbians and globally.

Call for Proposals Approach

Successful climate change adaptation will require integrated natural and social sciences research to ensure that knowledge required to anticipate and respond to changing forest and range ecosystems and economies is effectively transmitted to field practitioners, policy makers and communities. Accordingly, FFESC is committed to an interdisciplinary research program that builds on existing strengths in sustainable forest and range management. Following the Expression of Interest stage, and before preparing their research proposals, **proponents are strongly encouraged to participate in a 1-day proposal development workshop** to exchange information with stakeholders and other scientists, and to facilitate the development of interdisciplinary research teams and projects. The meeting will be held in either Vancouver or Victoria in late April. Travel assistance up to \$400 will be available to participants.

Research Scope

We welcome Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from proponents who can contribute in the following areas (based on the IPCC framework for climate change adaptation):

- Impact Assessments: evaluating the potential social, economic and ecological consequences of climate change to forest and range ecosystems and their dependent communities;
- Vulnerability Assessments: evaluating where a forest or rangeland socio-ecological system is most exposed and sensitive or least capable of adapting, and identifying barriers to adaptation;
- Adaptation: designing and implementing adaptive actions to reduce the vulnerabilities of forest and rangeland socio-ecological systems to climate change;

- Integration: monitoring the response of forest and rangeland socio-ecological systems to climate change; identifying interactions, feedbacks and cumulative effects and adjusting adaptation approaches as necessary.

FFESC Proposal Process

- (1) Proponents must submit EOIs by 4 pm April 14, 2009. Invitations to register for the proposal development workshop will be extended based on evaluation of EOIs. Details on workshop date, location, agenda and funding assistance will be provided with the registration package.
- (2) At the proposal development workshop, participants are expected to begin forming interdisciplinary research teams to investigate a research theme or integrated case study.
- (3) Integrated research teams will submit a brief Letter of Intent.
- (4) Selected LOIs will be asked to submit a Full Proposal. We anticipate approving LOIs to 150% of available funding and approving Full Proposals to 100% of available funding.
- (5) Funding of successful projects will begin in December, 2009 and end December, 2011.

Table 1. FFESC Research Proposal Process with anticipated deliverables and completion dates*

Description	Deliverable	Date	Sent to/Location
1. Expression of Interest (EOI)	EOI Form (Appendix I)	April 14, 2009	FFESC@gov.bc.ca
FFESC evaluates EOIs	Workshop invitation	April 17, 2009	Proponents' email or address
2. Proposal development workshop	Interdisciplinary research teams form	Last week of April, 2009	To be announced
3. Letter of Intent (LOI)	2-4 page LOI submitted	May 30, 2009	FFESC@gov.bc.ca
FFESC evaluates LOIs	Invitation to submit Full Proposal	June 15, 2009.	Proponent's email or address
4. Full Proposal	10-20 pg proposal submitted	September 15, 2009	FFESC@gov.bc.ca
FFESC informs proponents that proposal is accepted & funding will follow	Projects announced	November 2, 2009	Proponent's email or address
5. Funded Project		Dec 2009 to Dec 2011	
First Year End	Brief progress report	Dec. 31, 2010	FFESC@gov.bc.ca
Project Completion	Final Report	Dec. 31, 2011	FFESC@gov.bc.ca

* Steps 3 to 4 deliverables and dates may change subject to outcomes of Proposal Development Workshop

Who is Eligible to Apply?

1. FFESC will follow the principle of funding worthy projects regardless of their sponsoring organization or institution's connection to the FFESC.
2. Any person, group or organization who can demonstrate the capacity and experience to conduct research related to British Columbia's forest and range ecosystems or their dependent communities is eligible to apply.

3. Proponents are encouraged to submit EOIs as a research team rather than as individual scientists or students, and to select a designate to attend the proposal development workshop on their behalf.

How will EOIs be evaluated?

Submitted EOIs will be evaluated by FFESC based on:

- Relevance of the research topic area
- Evidence of capacity to carry out the work
- Indication of willingness to work within an interdisciplinary research team and to engage with decision-makers and communities

Visit http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hts/Future_Forests/EOI.htm for further information, including:

- Blank EOI application forms and a hypothetical example of a completed EOI application form
- More detailed lists of applicable research topics, completed and ongoing research projects
- Information about the MFR Future Forest Ecosystems Initiative (FFEI)

Questions should be e-mailed to the FFESC Secretariat: Paul.Rehler@gov.bc.ca