Interdisciplinary Climate Change Adaptation Research For Forest and Rangeland Ecosystems

LETTER OF INTENT (LOI) PROCESS

FFESC Purpose and Objectives:

The purpose of the FFESC is to promote research that supports adaptation of BC's forest management framework to anticipated effects from climate change.

Specific objectives include the following:

1. Increase understanding of how forest and range ecosystems can be expected to change over time as a result of climate change.
2. Develop projections to forecast those changes.
3. Develop methods of adapting forest management in response to climate change that will help reduce the impacts on forest and range ecosystems and productivity.
4. Research the economic and social consequences to BC of the changing forest and range ecosystems, and the effects of the proposed adaptation options.

FFESC Scope (based on IPCC adaptation framework):

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

Purpose of the LOI Review

The letter of intent stage allows the FFESC to identify the best proposal ideas and teams to develop full project proposals. As well as identifying the best LOIs, the FFESC is interested in ensuring that the full proposals that are developed reflect a balance among the diversity of geographic, ecological and topic areas. Limiting the number of full proposals will ensure a more efficient process for both the applicants and evaluators. In addition it provides an opportunity for the FFESC to provide comments pertaining to the LOI review criteria prior to the development of the full proposal. The number of LOIs approved will be up to 100% of available funding.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria will be used to evaluate LOIs:

1. Relevance of the research topic area:
    a. Contributes to stated FFESC objectives and is within the FFESC Scope (i.e. addresses a component of the IPCC's adaptation framework);
    b. Addresses climate-change adaptation from a holistic (i.e. systems) and interdisciplinary perspective;
    c. Integrates natural and social sciences.
    d. Addresses a priority climate-change adaptation issue and knowledge/extension gap.
    e. Clients [1] are partners in the project.

2. Technical/scientific merit:
    a. Research and/or extension questions and project objectives are clear;
    b. Approach is technically sound.

[1] Clients are resource management practitioners, policy makers, community stakeholders and First Nations participants - anyone directly affected by and/or involved in decisions about the way the forest and range resources are managed.

c. Approach supports cross-disciplinary integration.

d. Solid team is in place with complementary expertise required to carry out the work.

3. Expected benefits:

a. Potential to significantly advance adaptation of the forest and range management framework is clearly articulated.

b. Expected scientific benefits are clearly articulated.

c. Results/product are likely to be achieved within the two-year timeframe.

d. The client's decisions that the project will inform are clearly articulated and the ways in which these decisions will be informed are clearly identified.

e. The proposal includes an effective plan for extension.

4. Value for Money

a. Builds on and contributes to existing research infrastructure including data bases, models, and decision frameworks based on long term studies and other activities.

b. Efficiently networked with other projects and initiatives and avoids duplication.

c. Effectively leverages cash or in-kind contributions from other sources.

LOI Application Instructions

The LOI application forms can be downloaded in electronic PDF format from the website (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/HTS/Future_Forests/EOI.htm). It should be completed and returned with attachments before 4 pm on 1 June 2009 to the e-mail address FFESC.office@ubc.ca. All LOIs must be submitted using this process.

As part of the electronic PDF application form, each team member should complete the attached electronic CV which accompanies the application form. Separate downloadable CV templates are available on the same website for individual team members and clients. All relevant CV's must form part of the final submission package and each individual CV should not exceed 2 pages.

Letters of support from the clients or stakeholders (regardless of whether they are members of the team) should also accompany this final electronic document.

The entire application package (including CVs and letters of support) must be submitted in a single e-mail with attachments using the format: Project Leader last name_3-word title_FFESC_LOI as an identifier. A maximum of 10 pages is allowed for the electronic LOI application.

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2009 Program Policies

General Policies

Kinds of projects: new and established non-proprietary research.

Location: work undertaken must be applicable to British Columbia; work carried out on private land must ensure the public benefits are securable (i.e., a private landowner cannot undo the benefits.).

Freedom of Information and Confidentiality: FFESC is subject to the freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act of British Columbia. The Act provides access to government records, while preserving the confidentiality of personal information and information where release is demonstrably damaging to business interests. All information submitted may be released except for materials relating to the project approach, design, methodologies and team members. In addition to information submitted in application materials, material released may include the results of evaluations, grant agreements relating to approved projects and progress and final project reports. The application review process is treated confidentially. All evaluators will be briefed on confidentiality and conflict of interest guidelines.

Eligible Costs

For approved projects the following will be considered eligible costs:

- Salaries and stipends - direct salaries (i.e., the amount actually paid to an employee, not charge-out rates) based on the actual time spent on the project. Bonus or pay-for-performance are not eligible; proposal development costs are not eligible. Salary levels for graduate students follow

the NSERC guidelines. Full or part time faculty members or base government personnel may not receive salaries, however, the salaries of individuals hired to temporarily relieve them of regular duties so they can work on the project are eligible.

- Employee benefits – 4% for graduate students and 18% for employees.
- Administration – 3% administration fee by UBC departments; all other applicants (e.g., UNBC, government, independent) 5% administrative fee.
- Equipment – must be itemized and directly related to performing the project. Major capital equipment acquisitions are not eligible. Quotes are required for items in excess of $5000.
- Publications and reports – costs incurred in preparing progress and final reports and for extension and publication of research results (with acknowledgement of the FFESC).
- Travel - must be itemized, follow British Columbia provincial government rates, be directly related to technical aspects of the project and use the most economical and least carbon emitting method wherever possible.
- Materials and supplies – used to carry out the project must be itemized.
- GST – net GST costs (i.e. those costs not eligible for rebate).

The following are **not** eligible costs:

- Hiring - advertising, travel or other costs associated with hiring new personnel are not eligible.
- Commercialization– funds related to commercialization including marketing and obtaining a patent are not eligible.
- Entertainment
- Memberships – subscriptions to journals and other publications or membership fees to societies.