



Trinity River Restoration Program

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NC-150

August 26, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

Memorandum

To: Interdisciplinary Team

From: James Lee
Science Coordinator

Subject: Guidance for FY 2022 Science Funding

Multi-year monitoring project costs have grown to the extent that the TRRP science budget has little room to fund research or modeling efforts needed to continue to refine and adapt our approach to restoration. Up to \$250,000 was reserved in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget for short-term research and modeling projects. This funding is intended to provide TRRP scientists with more flexibility to research questions that fall outside of our regular status and trend monitoring projects. On 24 August 2021, we met to discuss a process to distribute these funds. The process is based on TRRP workgroups' research priorities that are recommended to the IDT, and is as follows:

- 1) Workgroup coordinators will request priority topics from their workgroups. Up to three priority topics from each workgroup will be forwarded to the IDT. Each priority will have a one-page pre-proposal for a research or tool-development project associated with it. The pre-proposal identifies project collaborators, defines the hypothesis to be tested or the product to be submitted, includes a task list including a timeline, and a rough budget. The deadline for the proposals to be submitted to the TRRP Science Coordinator is 22 September 2021.
- 2) The Science Coordinator will compile the topics and pre-proposals and distribute them to the IDT by 24 September.
- 3) The IDT will finalize selection criteria for proposals, to be based on the FY 20 Watershed FOA evaluation form, during an October meeting.
- 4) The IDT will rank the pre-proposals after the conclusion of the Science Symposium in November. The ranked list and initial budgets will be compiled, and a short list of

projects will be selected to request full proposals. These proposals will be submitted to the Science Advisory Board for their review by 17 December 2021

- 5) SAB will complete reviews and return to Science Coordinator by 04 February 2022.
- 6) Project proponents will incorporate SAB feedback into proposals, adjust budget, and submit revised budget to IDT by 18 February 2022.
- 7) IDT will determine the final project list based on the November ranking and revised budgets by 25 February 2022.
- 8) Disbursement of funds through the appropriate funding mechanism (FA, AFA, Contract) will begin immediately
- 9) Full proposals that ranked below the funding line will be given immediate priority for funding if additional science funds become available.

This process may be duplicated in the future years if funding for short-term science needs is made available.

ec: Mike Dixon, Executive Director