

EFFECTIVENESS MONITORING COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 944246
SACRAMENTO, CA 94244-2460
Website: www.bof.fire.ca.gov

(916) 653-8007



Request for Effectiveness Monitoring Project Proposals Initial Project Concept Proposals Due by **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

Effectiveness Monitoring Committee California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

The Effectiveness Monitoring Committee (EMC) is seeking project proposals that:

- (1) Address one or more of the **critical effectiveness monitoring questions** identified in the [EMC 2018 Strategic Plan](#)¹ and
- (2) Address **natural resource protection issues** that are important for **California forestlands**.

The critical monitoring questions referenced in (1) above are organized under 11 themes:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Watercourse and Lake Protection Zone (WLPZ) riparian function | 6. Wildfire hazard |
| 2. Watercourse channel sediment | 7. Wildlife habitat: species and nest sites |
| 3. Road and WLPZ sediment | 8. Wildlife habitat: seral stages |
| 4. Mass wasting sediment | 9. Wildlife habitat: cumulative impacts |
| 5. Fish habitat | 10. Wildlife habitat: structures |
| | 11. Hardwood values |

Among the 11 above referenced themes, the EMC has prioritized the following five thematic questions for FY 21/22, though this shall not exclude compelling thematic questions posed outside of the below list:

- **Question 6c:** Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in managing fuel loads, vegetation patterns and fuel breaks for fire hazard reduction?
- **Question 11a:** Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in retaining diverse forests with a mixture of tree species that includes hardwoods [14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) § 897 (b)(1)]?
- **Question 6a:** Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in treating post-harvest slash and slash piles to modify fire behavior?
- **Question 5b:** Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in maintaining and restoring the distribution of foraging, rearing and spawning habitat for anadromous salmonids?
- **Question 8b:** Are the FPRs and associated regulations effective in maintaining or increasing the amount and distribution of late succession forest stands for wildlife?

All thematic questions associated with each of the 11 themes are listed in the [EMC 2018 Strategic Plan](#)¹.

¹ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/9122/2018-emc-strategic-plan-ada.pdf>

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Background

The EMC was formed by the California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection (Board) in 2014 and acts as a technical advisory committee to the Board. Supported monitoring efforts aim to deliver a physical and ecological process-based understanding of the effectiveness of the California Forest Practice Rules (FPRs) and other forestry-related laws and regulations in maintaining or enhancing water quality, aquatic habitat, and wildlife habitat. In addition, the EMC fosters collaborative, transparent, and science-based effectiveness monitoring, providing an active feedback loop to policy makers, managers, agencies, and the public. Applicants are encouraged to submit monitoring project proposals that contribute to this active feedback loop.

For more information, please see the [EMC Charter](#),² [Strategic Plan](#),³ most recent [Annual Report and Workplan](#),⁴ and reviewed and supported projects on the [EMC's website](#)⁵.

Available Funding

The Board anticipates having \$270,528 available to fund EMC projects in fiscal year 2021–2022, and \$425,000 in each fiscal year 2022–2023 and 2023–2024. While the EMC may choose to fund projects that span multiple fiscal years, up to the annual funding cap, the EMC prefers to fund multiple research projects annually. Proposers should keep this in mind when developing their project and annual budget requests.

Indirect costs may not exceed 15% of the total funding request. Additionally, only one professor's summer salary may be included in funding requests.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants are limited to public entities, e.g., state agencies, public universities, federal agencies, and local government agencies or bodies. Proposals with matching funds or in-kind contributors are strongly encouraged, but not required. All funding awards will be distributed through state procurement processes. The EMC also encourages proposals that address critical monitoring questions and themes that have not been addressed by previously funded projects.

Proposed projects must clearly apply to management activities on private timberlands in California. Projects on public land may be eligible for EMC funding so long as they apply to the activities and systems that exist on non-federal timberland.

Proposal Format

The EMC requires that proposals be submitted on the EMC's proposal templates, as described in the paragraph below. While applicants are encouraged to review past accepted projects on the [EMC's website](#),⁴ the previous years' proposals may not adhere to the current formatting or submission standards.

² https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/10115/effectiveness-monitoring-committee-charter-7120_ada.pdf

³ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/9122/2018-emc-strategic-plan-ada.pdf>

⁴ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/gijnn1q0/2020-emc-annual-report-and-workplan.pdf>

⁵ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/board-committees/effectiveness-monitoring-committee/>

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Applicants must submit a one to two-page project summary for initial review using the [“Initial Concept Proposal” template](#)⁶ found on the [EMC’s website](#).⁷ If endorsed, the EMC will request a more detailed [“Full Project Proposal”](#)⁸. The EMC will use this “Full Project Proposal” to evaluate the project and consider it for final approval and funding recommendations to the Board. All sections of the templates must be filled out, and they may be broken into further subsections if necessary. There is no page requirement or page limit for the Full Project Proposal.

Timeline

Initial Concept Proposals are solicited annually in July and are due by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, September 15, 2021**. Following review of Initial Concept Proposals, the EMC may announce a request for a Full Project Proposal chosen from the initial proposals at the end of September 2021. Full Project Proposals will be due by early December 2021 and will be evaluated by the EMC using the ranking criteria and approach outlined in Section 5.0 of the [EMC 2018 Strategic Plan](#).⁹ Ranking results will be posted on [EMC’s website](#)⁴ and project proponents will be notified of the results and receive comments from the EMC. The EMC will complete the review of Full Project Proposals and make any funding recommendations for the 2021–2022 fiscal year at their December 2021 meeting.

July 21, 2021	September 15, 2021	December 2021	January – March 2022	June 2022
Request for Proposals released	Initial Concept Proposals due; EMC will review & request Full Project Proposals	Full Project Proposals due; EMC will rank projects, recommend funding, and notify applicants	Contracts developed and submitted to contract staff	Funds dispersed; project work begins

Project Deliverables

Applicants should include a description of project deliverables in the Full Project Proposal, as indicated on the required form. The EMC requires periodic updates, field tours, scientific reports, published journal articles, and/or other relevant deliverables during the life of the project. The EMC also encourages education and outreach events for the public. A final report with scientific results and discussion should be submitted to the EMC upon completion of project analyses. The EMC’s [Completed Research Assessment](#)¹⁰ should be consulted to ensure the final deliverables meet the EMC’s high standards for scientific integrity, and to ensure a strong link from research to policy and practice. This document is completed by select EMC members upon receipt of the final report and is subsequently submitted to the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection for final assessment of the completed project.

⁶ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/9176/concept-proposal-template-6419-ada.pdf>

⁷ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/board-committees/effectiveness-monitoring-committee/>

⁸ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/9175/clean-full-project-proposal-template-6419-ada.pdf>

⁹ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/9122/2018-emc-strategic-plan-ada.pdf>

¹⁰ https://bof.fire.ca.gov/media/wktpsaxf/emc-completed-research-assessment_ada.pdf

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Transparency and Conflicts of Interest

Transparency is important to the EMC. All proposals, requests for funding, ranking results, and related project materials will be made publicly available on the [EMC's website](#). Final results and data from EMC-approved projects will also be made publicly available.

If an EMC member is the principal investigator or a collaborator on a proposed project, the EMC member will recuse themselves from ranking that project or participating in funding recommendations for that project.

Applicants and EMC members shall disclose to the EMC any potential financial or non-financial conflicts of interests related to the proposal, including direct or indirect financial or non-financial relationships with the EMC, Board, Department, or applicants.

Proposal Submission and Contact Information

Interested applicants should carefully review this RFP and the [EMC's website](#).¹¹ **All Project Concept Proposals must be submitted on the form(s) provided via weblink in these guidelines, and received via email by the due dates provided.**

To apply, proposals should be emailed in Microsoft Word or PDF format to:

Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist
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P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244-2460
Phone: (916) 215-4947 / Fax: (916) 653-0989
kristina.wolf@bof.ca.gov

Please direct all questions and requests for further information to Kristina Wolf, Environmental Scientist.

¹¹ <https://bof.fire.ca.gov/board-committees/effectiveness-monitoring-committee/>