



FY 2018 Request for Pre-Proposals
Closing Date: October 16, 2017 at 5 PM (Mountain Time)

Pre-Proposals are invited for the Colorado Water Institute FY 2018 water research program.

The Colorado Water Institute (CWI) is established under the federal Water Resources Research Act, as amended, and is authorized by the Colorado legislature, most recently in 2006, under S.B. 06-183. At the federal level, CWI is one of 54 water institutes administered by the U.S. Geological Survey in the Department of Interior. Under Section 104(b) of the Water Resources Research Act, CWI is to '...plan, conduct, or otherwise arrange for competent research...' that fosters the entry of new scientists into water resources fields, the preliminary exploration of new ideas that address water problems or expand understanding of water and water-related phenomena, and disseminates research results to water managers and the public. The research program is open to faculty in any institution of higher education in Colorado that has 'demonstrated capabilities for research, information dissemination, and graduate training ... to resolve State and regional water and related land problems.'

Priority Research Topics:

Projects must be located in Colorado and should address priority issues identified in Colorado's Water Plan. Special consideration will be given to projects that include climate change aspects. For the FY 2018 competition, the CWI Advisory Committee for Water Research Policy has identified needs for new water knowledge that will assist in addressing the following issues for Colorado:

- Advance the understanding and management of groundwater systems
- Improve estimates of streamflow in ungaged basins
- Advance the Colorado Decision Support System
- Improve agricultural irrigation efficiency and conservation measures
- Develop a comprehensive literature review of floodplain storage capacity and changes as a result of flood events
- Improve understanding of ecological succession of phreatophytes in Colorado's river basins

Interested applicants interested in these topics are encouraged to contact Reagan Waskom at reagan.waskom@colostate.edu for additional details.

Funds Available:

The FY 2018 CWI Request for pre-proposals is supported by the Colorado Water Conservation Board and the U.S. Geological Survey, pending state and federal budget allocations. CWI research funds are awarded through a competitive process guided by the CWI Advisory Committee. Project budgets must not exceed \$50,000 of total funds requested.

Expected Award/Start Date:

Projects funded with federal funds will have a March 1, 2018 start and February 28, 2019 end date. Projects funded with CWCB funds will have a July 1, 2018 start and a June 30, 2019 end date.

Pre-Proposal Review Process:

All pre-proposals are due in the CWI office by October 16, 2017 at 5 PM (MT). Pre-proposals will be reviewed before ranking by the CWI Advisory Committee. The general criteria used for pre-proposal evaluation include: (1) scientific merit; (2) responsiveness to RFP; (3) qualifications of investigators; (4) originality of approach; (5) budget; and (6) extent to which Colorado water managers and users are collaborating.

Eligibility:

The competition is open to faculty and researchers at Colorado's public research universities.

Applications Not Eligible For Funding:

Applications submitted by an investigator that has not met reporting requirements on a previous award administered or awarded by CWI.

Pre-Proposal Submission:

Pre-Proposals are to be submitted electronically in WORD format are to be received no later than 5 PM (MT) on October 16, 2017. Submit to nancy.grice@colostate.edu

Pre-Proposal Preparation Guidelines:

Pre-proposals must not exceed 2 single spaced pages, including budget. Format guidelines are as follows:

- 12 point font size
- Arial font
- 1 inch margins (all sides)

Pre-Proposals must include the following items:

1. **Title.** Concise but descriptive.
2. **Principal Investigator name(s) and university.** Provide name, academic rank, university phone number and email address.
3. **Location** where the work is to be conducted in Colorado.
4. **Purpose of the research.** Specify the type of information that is to be gained and how it will be used. Include brief explanation of the need for the project - who wants it and why.
5. **Objectives, methods, timeline and completion date.** Provide enough information to permit evaluation of the technical adequacy of the approach to satisfy the objectives.
6. **Budget.** Provide a brief preliminary budget. Indirect costs must not exceed 15% of total direct costs.
7. **Budget justification.** Briefly breakdown and justify expenses.
8. **Department Head Contact Information.** Provide name, phone number, and email.
9. **Department Accountant Contact Information for Pre and Post Award.** Provide name, phone

number, email, for both pre and post award.

10. **Office of Sponsored Programs Team Leader Contact Information.** Provide name, phone number, and email.

Pre-Proposals chosen for funding will be provided with guidelines for full proposal and budget format. Full proposals will be due December 15, 2017

Deliverables:

Funded projects will be required to submit a completion report within 60 days of project end date addressing the description of the problem, research objectives, methodology, principle findings and project accomplishments including training provided, publications and impact. In addition, The PI will be required to write one CWI newsletter article detailing project accomplishments and impact. Principal Investigators may be asked to provide oral briefings to the CWI Advisory Committee, the Colorado Legislature and the Colorado Water Congress. Completion reports submitted must be in compliance with the [CWI Procedural and Editorial Guidelines for Principal Investigators](#).

Financial Policy:

The PI is ultimately responsible for CWI-funded accounts. If the budget is over expended or expenditures were improperly charged, the PI and his/her department or college are responsible for providing funds for the unauthorized spending.

Questions:

Please contact Reagan Waskom by phone at (970) 491-6308 or by e-mail at: Reagan.Waskom@ColoState.edu if there are questions about this solicitation.

Please visit <http://www.cwi.colostate.edu> for a full electronic version of this Request for Pre-proposals and for the CWI Procedural and Editorial Guidelines for Principal Investigators.