

Grassland Shrub/Steppe Species
Sage-grouse Research Collaborative (GS3C-SGC)
Research RFP Clarification Questions and Responses

Additional clarification on costs (posted September 14, 2010)

The GS3C-SGC understands that each proposer will have their own overhead costs. All proposed costs will be evaluated for reasonableness, including direct and indirect components.

Responses to bidder questions (posted August 5, 2010)

- 1) How does GS3C-SGC anticipate publicizing the data? Will there be public release of preliminary findings or progress reports? Can the data be submitted/potentially published (under the researchers terms) through academic articles?
 - Data and results are expected to be published in peer review journals.
 - Quarterly research updates will be provided by researchers to GS3C-SGC Oversight Committee and discussed on Oversight Committee calls. The quarterly reports will not be made public.
 - Preliminary research results may be presented orally or in written form only if the disclaimer is made that “These findings are preliminary and may change upon full analysis and peer review”. At least two weeks before they are presented, preliminary findings shall be submitted in abstract or outline form to the Oversight Committee for input to ensure consistent messaging about the Collaborative’s overarching goals and communications.
 - The only published documents that will be made public will be final research results that have undergone peer review.
 - The GS3C-SGC acknowledges that they have no formal input into text presented in a manuscript for publication. All evaluations of results and subsequent text in the discussion are to be made by the editor, associate editor and other reviewers for the peer review journals.
 - The goal is to have all data from all studies funded through the GS3C-SGC integrated into a comprehensive analysis that is published in peer review journals. The collaborative nature of this effort requires that separate research teams conduct independent replicated studies but work together to integrate and publish findings. The syntheses, representing all studies funded through the GS3C-SGC, are expected to result from collaboration among research teams responsible for individual sites.

- 2) Does GS3C-SGC prioritize research done by academics/NGOs vs. third party consultants?
 - This is a competitive bidding process with detailed weighted selection criteria laid out in the RFP. We do not prioritize the sector researchers belong to rather we will evaluate the relative strength of each proposal in meeting established criteria.

- 3) Why is there such a short timeframe for proposal submissions? Can this be extended?

- We will extend the deadline to October 1.
 - The main driver for the submission deadline is the goal of contracting early enough to ensure studies can begin in spring 2011.
- 4) How were the protocols developed? Do all of the protocols need to be followed exactly, or is their flexibility in the use of the protocols if a change in the use of the protocol is based on sound science?
- A first draft of the protocols was developed by Dr. Jim Sedinger of University of Nevada, with input from a pool of technical experts. The Oversight Committee developed the final draft.
 - The protocols are intended to function as guidelines to ensure sufficient consistency between replicated studies. We realize that each study site will have its own unique features that may require some modifications to the established protocols. We encourage bidders to use their best judgment and provide scientifically sound rationale for any changes in protocols.
- 5) How is the collaborative planning on funding this research?
- The Oversight Committee has and will continue to raise funds from as many diverse sources as possible to support this research effort. Some funding has been secured from DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory and BLM, and we anticipate some degree of funding from wind developers whose sites are being proposed for studies. The Oversight Committee will also make grant requests from foundations and other agencies and organizations.
- 6) Is there funding currently available?
- The GS3C-SGC has raised enough funds independently to begin research for the first year on at least two sites. The total number of projects selected is dependent on matching funds provided by wind developers which will be identified in proposals.
 - The Oversight Committee will continue to raise funds to support long-term studies at multiple sites.