North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee (NPC MRC)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

2011-2012 Funding Round

The NPC MRC promotes community involvement in coastal issues in western Clallam and Jefferson Counties. MRC members and participants learn about resource conditions and coastal community needs, participate in local and regional projects, and sponsor activities and studies having to do with the unique management issues of Washington's outer coast. More information: http://wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/mrc

I. Funding Opportunity

The North Pacific Coast Marine Resource Committee (NPC MRC) invites project proposals designed to promote local, Olympic Coast marine stewardship and restoration. **Applications are due to the North Pacific Coast Marine Resources Committee by 5pm PST on December 5th, 2011**.

For further information contact NPC MRC Coordinator, Rich Osborne rosborne@co.clallam.wa.us 360-417-2569.

The NPC MRC encourages proposals from new and first-time grant applicants. Projects must fall within one of six broad categories as defined by the Coastal MRC Program Work Group:

Marine Habitats
Marine Life
Marine and Fresh Water Quality
Sound Science
Education and Outreach, or
Coastal Communities

See Appendix A for more information on these benchmarks.

Projects may be specific to an area of the north coast of the Olympic Peninsula or involve collaboration(s) with one or more of the other coastal MRCs for Grays Harbor, Pacific and/or Wahkiakum Counties.

II. Suggested Project Types

For 2011-2012, the NPC MRC encourages the following project types:

1) **Interpretive products and projects** about the marine environment or its use by people or the resources people value.
2) **Beach Clean-Ups**: local clean-ups or participation in the coast-wide clean-up.
3) **Science projects**: research or monitoring projects by professionals or citizen science groups.
4) **Coast-wide Projects**: a project that engages all the Marine Resources Committees (MRCs) on the coast in a joint effort.
5) **Ocean Literacy**: Marine oriented K-12 education, citizen science programs, a community Speakers Bureau, or marine science education opportunities for local educators.

III. Award Information

Under this announcement $15,000 is available to be awarded. This can be for one project or distributed to several projects, and can serve as matching funds for a project primarily funded from another source. The NPC MRC reserves the right to offer partial funding for discrete activities, portions, or phases of the proposed project.

IV. Due Dates

Applications are due **Monday, December 5th, 2011**. Awards will be announced at the NPC MRC meeting on **January 17th, 2012**. Projects must be completed and a project summary report submitted by **June 29th, 2012**.

V. Eligibility and matching

Federal, state, tribal, and other public or non-profit private agencies, institutions, and organizations are eligible for funding. Private individuals or for-profit organizations may partner with an eligible applicant or provide matching funds or in-kind contributions. There is no matching requirement.

VI. Application Requirements

1) Complete your application using the template on the next page (Copy the template onto paper or cut and paste into a word processing program).
2) Reference your project objective(s) with one or more of the program benchmarks identified in Appendix A.
3) Carefully consider the Review Criteria in Appendix B when completing the project template.
4) Applications should be no longer than 5 pages excluding attachments (budget, resumes, maps or illustrations, support letters, etc.)
5) Minimum font size 11. Use standard margins.
6) Answer all of the questions.
7) Submit your application on paper or email an electronic copy.
8) Complete and submit your proposal by the deadline.

Submission. Electronic submissions are preferable. Please email proposals to rebalynn@u.washington.edu or by mail to:

NPC MRC Application
c/o Rebekah Gentry
UW Olympic Natural Resources Center
P.O. Box 1628, Forks, WA 98331

VII. Project Template

1. **Name of the project**:

2. **Lead organization and Contact** (Name, email, phone, address):

3. **Starting and ending dates for your project:**

4. **Deliverables** (List and identify their final date of submission (report and/or products):

5. **Project staff** (List and describe their expertise for their role in the project. Resumes may be attached).

6. **Partners** (List and describe partners: include whether they are providing matching contribution(s) of cash, in-kind materials, supplies, equipment, labor, etc. Support letters may be attached).

7. **List any associated permits and their status** (Examples: JARPA, HPA, Marine Mammal, National Park, NEPA review, SEPA review).

8. **Project Narrative** (up to 5 pages not including attachments):
    a) **Abstract** (Provide a 1-2 paragraph project summary in the form of a short description that highlights the narrative that follows).
    b) Describe the background and context (project area, situation to be addressed, past work relevant to the project).
    c) Explain why the project is appropriate for MRC funding or how it achieves one or more of the six benchmarks.
    d) List and describe the project objective(s).
    e) Provide a timeline for your project activities in relation to your stated objectives and the deliverables identified in #4 above)
    f) Describe the methods, procedures and equipment to be used, if any.
    g) Describe the extent or impact of the project (e.g., acres, miles, number of citizens).
    h) Indicate if there are plans to continue the project into the future.

9. **Provide a Project Budget** (include matches from other funding sources (Cash & In-Kind) and the following categories:
    a) Personnel salaries and benefits (or hourly wages).
    b) Supplies.
    c) Equipment
    d) Travel
    e) Contracted services
    f) Indirect expenses (WDFW does not allow MRCs to accept indirect expenses. All such expenses should be itemized).

* * *

For further information contact NPC MRC Coordinator, Rich Osborne rosborne@co.clallam.wa.us 360-417-2569.

APPENDIX A

PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS

The NPC MRC has adopted the benchmarks developed by the Coastal MRC Program Work Group (http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/about/mrc/index.html). Performance benchmarks will be used to measure MRC activities and achievement in discrete, but broad categories. Benchmarks developed and adopted by the Coastal MRC Program Work Group include:

Marine Habitats
Understand, steward, and restore marine, estuarine, coastal, and nearshore habitats, prevent loss, and achieve a net gain of healthy habitat areas by:

- enhancing ecosystem and community resilience by protecting and restoring marine and coastal habitats
- designing and implementing local and regional projects that restore natural processes
- surveying and mapping marine and estuarine resources to better define physical and biological characteristics of marine habitats
- making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools to protect marine and estuarine habitats
- understanding and evaluating erosion and promoting sound sediment management practices

Marine Life
Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine populations to healthy, sustainable levels by:

- maintaining the health of marine and estuarine species and preventing further ESA listings while increasing access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest where feasible
- balancing protection focus on ecosystem versus target species
- identifying and carrying out actions to protect and restore species of interest and concern
- designing and implementing projects to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species
- making scientifically-based recommendations about management tools for species recovery

Marine and Fresh Water Quality
Understand, steward, and restore marine and estuarine water quality of Washington's coast and coastal embayments by:

- conducting or supporting science to fill critical data gaps
- working to reduce the input of pollutants
- promoting management actions that would restore degraded water quality and contaminated sediment
- working with and training students and citizens to conduct water quality monitoring

Sound Science
Collect high quality data and promote its transparent presentation, acceptance, and timely dissemination by:

(Appendix A continued)

- utilizing established scientific protocols for the collection, analysis and use of data that support the Coastal MRC Program goal
- identifying gaps in data and working to fill those gaps by promoting the development of comprehensive, accessible marine resource databases
- promoting peer reviewed science

Education and Outreach
Promote stewardship and understanding of coastal estuarine and marine resources through science-based education and outreach by:

- informing the public about threats to living resources and coastal communities and presenting them with practical measures they can take to prevent further harm especially regarding land use, erosion control, and individual homeowner decisions
- informing citizens and governmental agencies about ocean energy activities and associated effects on coastal communities
- coordinating outreach and education programs with other organizations, including local community colleges, and evaluating their effectiveness
- engaging the public in active stewardship opportunities through community workshops, restoration projects, and educational programming
- translating and disseminating scientific information about the status of Washington's coastal habitats, resources, and communities to regional policy makers, resource managers, and the public in a timely manner
- expanding partnerships with tribal governments and continuing to foster respect for tribal cultures and treaties
- striving to maintain and improve coordination and communication among stakeholders and all managers

Coastal Communities
Promote sustainable and resilient coastal communities by:

- supporting sustainable marine resource-based industries
- supporting cultural and economic integrity of coastal communities
- encouraging citizen participation in local and governmental decisions regarding marine resources
- engaging in activities aimed at hazard prevention and preparedness, e.g. education
- increasing sustainable access to marine resource enjoyment and harvest

* * *

APPENDIX B

Application Review Criteria

Projects will be evaluated based upon the criteria specified below as they apply to themes incorporated into the project. These criteria will be used by the reviewers to screen all projects in order to ensure that they reflect the minimum standards required by the NPC MRC:

A. Rationale/Relevance for Action: What is the potential for the project to result in stewardship and restoration efforts/outcomes within the NPC MRC area?
B. Scientific/Professional Merit: Are the project's design, objectives and technical approach sound?
C. Value Added: Does the project build upon prior efforts and add value to those efforts? If the project is duplicating past efforts, why is that duplication necessary and important?
D. Applicant Capacity: What is the likelihood of the applicant successfully completing the proposed project and achieving their stated goals based upon:
    1) Their past performance?
    2) Their organizational experience?
    3) Their knowledge, resources, and available skill sets?
E. Partnerships: Has the applicant indicated that there are partners that would participate in the project? If so, what expertise, in-kind, and/or material resources are the identified partners providing? Also, how is that partnership being demonstrated in the application (e.g., letters of support, letters of commitment, etc.)?
F. Geographic Scope: Is the project located within Clallam, Jefferson, or both parts of these two counties? Does the project include collaboration with other MRCs, if so, how and with whom?
G. Deliverables: Does the proposal explain how the results of the project will be recorded and distributed? What is the form of the deliverables (e.g., reports, newsletters, etc.)?
H. Measuring Progress: Is the timeline for completing the project reasonable and appropriate? Did the proposal include milestones and associated deliverables?
I. Appropriate Budget: How reasonable is the budget in light of the proposal and the expected benefits from the project? How were costs determined?
J. Consultation and Community Support: Have the project proponents consulted the affected governments (Federal, State, tribal, local) or private land owners associated with their proposal? Is there support or opposition from any potentially affected community members? Please contact the MRC coordinator if you are uncertain as to who should be consulted prior to project submission.

* * *

For further information contact NPC MRC Coordinator, Rich Osborne rosborne@co.clallam.wa.us 360-417-2569.