

Puget Sound Institute



2013

Request for Proposals

Funding Cycle: July 1, 2013 to January 31, 2015

Letter of intent due by **5:00 p.m. PST March 15, 2013**

Full proposals due by **5:00 p.m. May 1, 2013**

Letters of Intent and full proposals must be submitted via e-mail to
psiadmin@uw.edu

The University of Washington Puget Sound Institute (PSI) requests proposals for 18-month research projects from social science investigators at academic and research institutes, government agencies and other professional consultancies to conduct research on Puget Sound ecosystem service values. As much as \$200,000 will be available to support up to three projects selected through an open, competitive, peer-reviewed process. This document provides guidance for submitting letters of intent and full proposals. Note that investigators may submit letters of intent that include response to one, two or all three of the three ecosystem services listed below. Interdisciplinary partnerships are encouraged.

I. Research Scope

Over the last several years the Puget Sound Partnership (PSP) in collaboration with the University of Washington Puget Sound Institute (PSI) (www.pugetsoundinstitute.org) has been engaged in a concerted effort to incorporate the human dimension in its ecosystem recovery strategies and implementation. Two recent Puget Sound documents highlight the significant gaps in social science research (including anthropology, economics, psychology, sociology) relevant to the Puget Sound Region^{1 2}. In addition, the current PSP dashboard of indicators includes human well-being indicators for which robust data is not currently available. This request for proposals is intended to fill a subset of those gaps with a focus on ecosystem service valuation.

Proposed research projects must fall under the rubric of cultural ecosystem services (as defined in the Millennium Ecosystems Assessment) and include one to three of the following:

- Marine-based recreation (boating, wildlife viewing, fishing, and swimming)
- Aesthetics and proximity to shorelines
- A Puget Sound sense of place

These ecosystem services were identified early in the PSP planning process by the World Resources Institute and other regional social scientists as providing significant benefits to Puget Sound residents and communities. It is expected that investigators will collect primary data and apply appropriate models and/or methods such as economic valuation methods such as Travel Cost, Random Utility, and Hedonic Pricing. Examples of this type of analysis might include the use of Random Utility modeling in the estimation of recreational wildlife viewing in Puget Sound recognizing the explicit tradeoff people make to recreate in one site over another.

¹ PSP 2011, [Biennial Science Work Plan](#)

² Wellman et al 2011, [Human Dimensions of Puget Sound and Washington Coast Ecosystem-Based Management](#)

Alternatively, investigators might apply the Hedonic Price Model to assess value losses or gains experienced by property owners as relates to shoreline management strategies, informing the development of incentives to reduce shoreline armoring and beach restoration. Investigators may also consider the use of alternative methods such as conjoint analysis, GIS-based values and activities mapping, sense of place surveys, ethnographic assessments, and validated constructed measures noting that there are several available databases that may be used including data collected for the Puget Sound Partnership Sound Behavior index development (PSP. 2012. Sound Behavior Index and Social Capital Index - 2012 Survey Report). Examples of the latter could include GIS-based activities mapping exploring existing locations of marine based recreation and values. Mapping might capture non-economic values associated with sense of place. Similarly, a constructed measure may be developed and validated through interviews and surveys to identify relationships between aesthetics and proximity to shorelines. Regardless of the approach, investigators must include recognition of spatial scales taking into account the heterogeneity of communities around Puget Sound.

II. Project Requirements

Human Subjects

This solicitation provides the opportunity for the submission of applications for projects that may involve human subjects research. Human subjects research supported by the EPA is governed by EPA Regulation 40 CFR Part 26 (Protection of Human Subjects).

Deliverables

As a final report, investigators must (1) submit one or more manuscripts to a peer-reviewed journal and (2) submit all raw and analyzed data with corresponding metadata to PSI. The intent of this requirement is to ensure a high quality widely disseminated final product. Investigators will be required to present their research plan at the PSI-sponsored Social Science Workshop to be held in September 2013 and develop a two page report to be submitted to the PSI Puget Sound Encyclopedia.

Relevance

Each proposal must include a statement of relevance, clearly illustrating how the research plays an important role in furthering the inclusion of the human dimension in PSP Puget Sound ecosystem recovery and policy decision making. Investigators must also articulate how they intend to translate their results to make it accessible to a lay audience.

Student Support

The inclusion of student support is strongly encouraged for all projects. This is an opportunity to provide incentives to students considering a future in social sciences as relate to ecosystem conservation and recovery. Support may include undergraduate and graduate students and post-doctoral researchers.

Data Management

All data collected during the project will be archived by the University of Washington and, with appropriate safeguards, made available in the public domain.

III. Letters of Intent (Maximum of two pages)

Letters of Intent must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. March 15, 2013 via e-mail to psiadmin@uw.edu. Only investigators who submit Letters of Intent are eligible to submit full proposals. Each Letter of Intent (LOI) must contain the following components, submitted as one PDF file:

1. A clear statement of which element(s) (marine based recreation, aesthetics and proximity to shorelines, a Puget Sound sense of place) the LOI addresses.
2. Investigators Qualification: A brief statement of qualification of principal investigators and research team, emphasizing results of recent or current work relevant to this LOI.
3. Project Summary: Project title, duration and list of all team members in addition to principal investigators.
4. Project Narrative: One page document that includes the project summary and research methodology, expected outcomes and potential benefit.
5. Budget: Preliminary budget for 18-month time period

The PSI director will convene a local review panel to evaluate LOI and identify projects for which full proposals should be encouraged. All principal investigators will receive electronic responses to their LOI in early April 2013 indicating whether they are encouraged to submit full proposals.

IV. Full Proposals (Maximum of 15 pages for first 5 elements below)

Full proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. May 1, 2013 and are to be submitted via e-mail to psiadmin@uw.edu

Each full proposal must contain the following components, submitted as one PDF file:

1. **Project Summary:** One-page description that includes the project title, short and long-range term project objectives related to PSP goals and strategies, summary of approach and methods, and rationale explaining project importance and why PSI support is appropriate. If investigators are submitting proposed work for more than one of the ecosystem services listed above, a brief description of the efficiencies created should be included.
2. **Full Project Narrative:** The primary basis for funding decisions, this 5-15 page document (depending on the number of ecosystem services proposed) discusses the gap that this research will fill, methods, expected results, relevance, dissemination of results and references.
3. **Budget:** Carried over from the Letter of Intent stage and updated to reflect final budget costs and a justification for each budget item.
4. **Current and Pending Support:** Planned and ongoing research funding for all investigators. This information will be used to assess capacity to complete proposed projects.
5. **Time Schedule:** Details of project activities and key milestones.
6. **Investigator Resumes:** Two-page resumes from the principal investigator and all project team members.
7. **Support Letters:** Letters of support from collaborating institutions.

Each submitted and complete full proposal will be distributed to three out of region external reviewers for evaluation and comments. Reviews will be considered by PSI staff and proposed projects selected. Selected projects must follow all University of Washington and Environmental Protection Agency rules and requirements that govern PSI. A start date for selected projects is expected to be July 1, 2013.

For more information

Investigators are encouraged to contact PSI at psiadmin@uw.edu.

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