

QUESTION: What is the anticipated rate of planning awards going to execution?

ANSWER: We plan to give about 20 planning awards and then about 6 awards for the execution and application of actionable science in our next competition (which will be reviewed independently from the current competition).

QUESTION: What about recurring decisions, such as monitoring and adaptive management?

ANSWER: Recurring natural resource management decisions are eligible.

QUESTION: Can a proposal plan to deal with multiple resource management decisions?

ANSWER: Yes, the proposal can be for more than one decision. It can address a suite of decisions, but specificity is key. The more specific it is the more likely you are able to design a plan for the science needed to inform that decision.

QUESTION: Can you address similar/complementary questions for multiple decision makers?

ANSWER: Yes, you can propose a research planning process that may generate questions faced by multiple natural resource managers. One of those natural resource managers must be on your project team.

QUESTION: Is conservation/sustainability considered a resource management decision?

ANSWER: By itself, no, there would need to be something more specific than "conservation/sustainability."

QUESTION: Are tributaries that discharge into the Gulf of Mexico considered in this scope?

ANSWER: Yes, provided that the natural resource management decision that is the focus of the planning impacts a resource that has a direct, significant, and quantifiable impact on the Gulf of Mexico.

QUESTION: Will panel review members have previous experiences related to Gulf of Mexico awards?

ANSWER: In general, yes.

QUESTION: What about Endangered Species Act (ESA)-related planning and decision-making? Would this fit?

ANSWER: Yes, ESA-related planning such as a species listing, critical habitat, etc. is eligible.

QUESTION: The resource manager that needs to be an equal partner and provide a letter of support needs to be a member of a regulatory government agency?

ANSWER: We have a broad definition of resource manager that includes non-governmental organizations and private landowners, so no the resource manager does not have to be a member of a regulatory government agency.

QUESTION: Will the execution grants include funding for land conservation?

ANSWER: No, funds will not be provided for the direct purchase of land.

QUESTION: Are there documents that explicitly prioritize management challenges for the Gulf of Mexico already identified by the RESTORE initiative, or are the management challenges broadly defined in the call?

ANSWER: We have not prioritized management challenges but encourage you to consult the documents published by natural resource management entities in the Gulf of Mexico and have conversations with representatives of those entities.

QUESTION: Are any budget considerations included in the LOI submittal?

ANSWER: The LOI includes a place where you should provide a budget estimate.

QUESTION: Can budgets include salaries, honoraria, overhead, etc?

ANSWER: Yes, they can include those things. The only restriction is that the Science Program cannot fund the salaries of permanent federal employees.

QUESTION: Are social science projects that are used to make management decisions acceptable to submit?

ANSWER: Yes, so long as they are related to the management of a natural resource.

QUESTION: Can you speak more about what the co-production event would entail?

ANSWER: We are still designing this event and are gathering feedback on community interest from these webinars.

QUESTION: For describing the team members can one include additions to the planning team for carrying out the plan should the project be awarded?

ANSWER: Yes

QUESTION: So under this definition, would marine debris management not qualify?

ANSWER: You will need to identify a specific marine debris management decision that impacts a natural resource for it to be eligible for this competition such as a marine debris management decision that impacts water quality.

QUESTION: Who is considered a resource manager? Can it be a staff member of NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (ORR)?

ANSWER: If the person in ORR is making a natural resource management decision then yes they can be a resource manager.

QUESTION: Where exactly are the guidelines for co-production?

ANSWER: Please consult the two references listed here on the Science Program website (<https://restoreactscienceprogram.noaa.gov/funding-opportunities/ffo-2021#additional>).

QUESTION: Should we have federal collaborators/partners or can we just work with local and state partners?

ANSWER: Our definition of resource manager is very broad and includes local, state, and tribal governments as well as non-governmental organizations and private landowners. You can choose to work with any of them or with federal partners.

QUESTION: What are the estimated funds available for the second competition?

ANSWER: \$15M for 5-10 projects

QUESTION: Can a NOAA researcher involved with management decisions be considered a resource manager?

ANSWER: Yes

QUESTION: Is solar energy an eligible natural resource?

ANSWER: Yes

QUESTION: If the natural resource of interest is freshwater, would the management decision have to link to a different resource in the Gulf? (fish, etc..)

ANSWER: No. Freshwater meets the definition of a natural resource.

QUESTION: Are artificial reefs considered natural resources? Can planning of artificial reefs be considered (e.g., sites, proximity to one another)?

ANSWER: Artificial reefs are human built and are not themselves a natural resource, but the species that reside on them would be considered natural resources. Management decisions related to artificial reefs that impact natural resources on and around artificial reefs are eligible

QUESTION: Does a researcher need to be affiliated with an academic institution?

ANSWER: No

QUESTION: To clarify, the letter of support is from the same manager that is the lead or equal partner of the proposal itself?

ANSWER: Yes

QUESTION: Will the eligibility categories for the 2023 FFO be the same as this planning FFO?

ANSWER: Yes, it is likely that the same types of institutions will be eligible to apply and the priority will be broadly focused on actionable science to inform specific natural resource management decisions.

QUESTION: Is there a limit on the number of natural resource managers that could be involved in a proposal?

ANSWER: No