



Forest
Service

Pacific Southwest Region

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Date:

Route To:

Subject: FY 2015 Aquatic Passage Project Design Assistance Call Letter

To: Forest Supervisors

OPTIONAL REPLY DUE APRIL 20, 2015

The national aquatic organism passage (AOP) virtual design team, a third-year pilot program to provide direct design assistance and instruction to National Forest personnel (engineers, hydrologists, fish biologists) in developing Stream Simulation and flood resilient designs at road-stream crossings, is requesting proposals for projects that would benefit from direct technical design assistance and/or technical review in FY15 and FY16. The virtual design team will share their expertise and experience to help complete road-stream crossing designs by providing technical assistance and on-the-job training for resource specialists on National Forests. This direct, on-the-ground technical assistance is intended to improve the quality of projects, increase the efficiency of interdisciplinary assessment and design teams, and build the workforce capacity of National Forests to effectively design and implement future Stream Simulation projects. This design assistance is funded through the Washington Office in partnership with the Regions and their key partners.

Complete design assistance can also be requested by National Forests that lack the appropriate technical staff in hydrology, engineering, and fisheries, but those units are expected to fund all costs associated with the assessment and design of those projects. Typical costs may include survey, geomorphic assessment and design, geotechnical investigation, engineering design, contract preparation, etc.

To ensure that the highest priority projects are considered, we recommend that Forest program leaders in watershed and hydrology, fisheries, and engineering, in conjunction with other key agencies and partners, collaborate on developing project proposals using the following criteria:

- 1) Address Threatened and Endangered (T&E) recovery plans and other emphasis aquatic species.
- 2) Address sites in priority watersheds (e.g. Watershed Condition Framework) or emergency repair sites within flood recovery areas.
- 3) Maximize aquatic habitat connectivity within the watershed.
- 4) Leverage funds to the greatest extent possible using both internal and external sources.



5) Address watershed-scale partnership projects.

Please submit project details on the enclosed form in order of your Forest's priorities. Project proposals must be submitted by email to John Sherman at jsherman@fs.fed.us or call (707-562-8728) and Rita Kelley at ritakelley@fs.fed.us or call (707) 562-8943 by April 20, 2015.

RANDY MOORE
Regional Forester Pacific Southwest Region

Enclosure (1)

cc: Joseph Furnish, Rita Kelley, John Sherman, Tina Lynsky, Diana Craig, Tyrone Kelley, John Heibel