

Selecting and Developing Applied Research Projects

To ensure the integrity of the EAHCP Applied Research Projects, the EAA HCP Staff will work with the members of the Science Committee in ranking project proposals and in developing scopes of work for selected projects for 2015 and beyond. With this in mind, the EAA HCP Staff will implement the following process:

1. The Project Sponsor ¹submits a completed EAA Project Proposal form.
 - Projects may be sponsored by members of the Implementing Committee, Science Committee or an HCP contractor to serve a specific HCP data need.
2. The EAA could accept a Project Proposal form as submitted, or upon review, request that additional details and information be added (example: add additional information as to project description, value to Phase I or Eco-Model, and/or provide additional literature references).
3. EAA HCP Staff will review the proposals according to how well the project meets the immediate needs of Phase 1 and the following criteria:
 - The project fills necessary information gaps about the Covered Species;
 - The project is necessary to the validation and calibration of the Ecological and Groundwater models;
 - The project establishes information essential to the Strategic Phase II Adaptive Management decision.

This analysis will be provided to the Science Committee as a starting point for project prioritization discussions.²

4. The Science Committee project prioritization process is as follows:
 - All project submittal forms that are complete and consistent will be provided to the Science Committee with an analysis from HCP Staff.³
 - The Science Committee will be asked first, prior to the Science Committee meeting, to categorize the projects with a “High, Medium or Low” priority.
 - At the Science Committee meeting, members will agree upon the “High and Medium” projects and will then rank the projects with the rank of 1 for the highest priority project up to 8 for the lowest priority project. *Note – there can only be one #1, one #2, etc.*
 - Projects not prioritized will be retained for consideration in future years.

¹ For 2015 projects, EAA HCP staff received five proposals from the 2013 Applied Research Team, HCP Ecological Modeling Team and Texas State University. EAA HCP Staff also submitted three studies identified in the HCP and eliminated four HCP studies from consideration because they were not relevant to Ecological Model at this time.

² For 2015, EAA HCP staff requested input from Dr. George Ward on how each project contributes to the ecomodeling work.

³ And for 2015, from Dr. George Ward.

5. Also, for each prioritized project, the Science Committee will be asked to identify the Key Elements (those elements that are essential to the project) prior to the Science Committee meeting, that need to be included in the project's Scope of Work (SOW).
6. The EAA will take the prioritized Applied Research proposals and determines which projects will proceed based on:
 - Prioritization.
 - Available funding (i.e. a total of \$450,000 is available for Applied Research projects in 2015).
7. EAA HCP Staff will develop the Scopes of Work used for inclusion in an RFP.