**Project Pipeline Development Funding Questionnaire**

The SNC envisions every part of our region having a project pipeline/portfolio that is created and maintained by a diverse group of stakeholders and tribes. A robust project pipeline is created by having projects at multiple stages: concept, design, environmental permitting, and implementation. (Please reference: [The Life of a Forest Resilience Project](https://sierranevada.ca.gov/the-life-of-a-forest-wildfire-resilience-project/)). The flow of projects through such a pipeline helps increase the pace and scale of forest restoration. Some of our RFFCP Round 3 funding will be used to help establish and strengthen robust project pipelines throughout the [Sierra-Cascade region](https://sierranevada.ca.gov/about-us/service-area/).

Based on SNC’s experience, project design and scoping, or the work that it takes to prepare a project for the CEQA/NEPA process, can be difficult to find funding for. **We are therefore focusing this round of RFFCP funding on that design and scoping phase.** This approach will help us utilize our RFFCP funding most effectively to benefit the Sierra-Cascade region, focusing on the areas where there are not robust project pipelines. If your partnership or collaborative has a set of projects that are 1) shovel ready or 2) have completed design and scoping and are ready for the CEQA/NEPA process, then you are unlikely to be competitive for this funding opportunity.

In order to be able to assist project pipeline development throughout our service area, we are expecting that these grants will be for modest funding amounts, not to exceed $250,000. The focus of these grants will be project design and scoping. However, we mayconsider other stages of the project pipeline, if the need can be demonstrated and the cost is $250,000 or less.

Funding Criteria:

We are looking to provide funding to groups that have the following:

1. The applicant partnership or collaborative has a prioritized list of forest health/fire mitigation projects OR the group is seeking RFFCP Round 3 capacity building funding to develop such a list
2. The applicant partnership or collaborative has identified specific projects which are priorities for design, permitting, and implementation
3. The applicant partnership or collaborative does NOT currently have projects that have concept and design work completed (i.e., ready for permitting) or are 'shovel ready' (i.e., ready for implementation funding)
4. The applicant partnership or collaborative has capacity and readiness to engage in concept/design work and continue to permitting and implementation phases in the future

Note: This may be confusing, so here’s a more complete explanation. If your group already has projects ready for permitting or ready for implementation, there are multiple sources of grant funding which you can go after to further your project. Such funding can give your organization resources to continue to design projects so that you can get additional permitting and implementation funding. In other words, you have a project pipeline.

But if your group is struggling just to get a project design to the level of specificity that you can apply for permitting funding, it is often difficult to identify funding sources for this ‘concept/design’ phase. Without that funding, it is hard to start projects through the project pipeline. Our goal is to provide funding in this situation, so that all of the collaborative groups and partnerships in the SNC Region can develop a robust and sustainable project pipeline.

**Questionnaire:**

Please provide information on the current state of your project pipeline and specific proposals for use of the RFFCP Project Pipeline Development funding. Unlike the Capacity Building Assessment, we are requesting this information in writing. Please keep your responses brief. Note that you do not need to be perfect in each of these areas. We are aware that there may be areas you expect to improve through capacity-building funding. This is not a competitive process. We are looking to provide funding to develop robust project pipelines where they do not already exist, and where the collaborative or partnership has the capacity and readiness to successfully complete this work.

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| **Questions**  | **RESPONSE** |
| **Project Prioritization Process** |
| Is your organization associated with a partnership or collaborative engaged in project identification and prioritization? * If ‘yes’, please provide a short description of the identification and prioritization process (How long has it been going on, what stakeholders have been involved, etc. Limit 250 words)
* If ‘no’, is this one of the activities for which you plan to ask for RFFCP Round 3 Capacity Building funding?
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| Has your partnership or collaboration agreed on a list of priority projects? How detailed are the project descriptions? Do they include specific proposed treatments and acreage? Proposed implementation partners? Cost estimates?  |  |
| **Projects Identified for Moving Forward** |
| If you have a list of identified projects, has your collaborative or partnership identified specific priority projects which you would like to move to the next step in the project pipeline? If so, list one or two that are the highest priority. |  |
| Describe briefly how these projects contribute to planned landscape-level forest health activities and/or comprehensive community protection. (Limit 250 words)  |  |
| **Status of Project Pipeline** |
| Does your list of priority projects **lack** projects that are ‘shovel-ready’ (i.e., have completed CEQA and NEPA)?  |  |
| Does your list of priority projects **lack** projects that have been designed and scoped and are ready for CEQA/NEPA if permitting funding is made available? |  |
| **Status of High Priority Projects Identified for Project Pipeline Development** |
| For the highest priority project(s) identified above, would you be interested in receiving funding through this program to advance the project(s) through the concept, design, and scoping stage so as to be ready for permitting funding?  |  |
| If the answer to question above is ‘no’, are you seeking funding through this program to advance the project(s) to another stage in the Project Pipeline? Which stage? How much funding will be needed for this work? Do you already have some of that funding? Please describe the impact that the requested funding would have on your project pipeline development. (total 400 words) |  |
| **Geographic Focus** |
| What is the general geographic focus of the proposed work? |  |
| **Estimated Workplan, Budget, and Timeline**Please provide a rough estimate of activities, the entity responsible (staff or consultants), the timeline, and the costs below: |
| **Activity** | **Responsible (internal staff or consultants)** | **Time Period** | **Cost** |
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