

## Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

### Policy on Competitive Proposals

Adopted: October 20, 2021

There are a handful of competitive research funding opportunities offered by our state agency cooperators that fund research likely to fall within the mission of the Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (e.g., aquatic invasive plant funding offered by WDoE, shellfish growers funding offered by WDFW, and periodic one-off competitive opportunities offered potentially by any agency). In these cases, indirect cost rates offered under the Cooperative Agreement could be made available for projects headed by UW and WSU scientists who submit successful proposals. We have been asked by cooperating faculty if they can adopt a lower indirect rate (either 0% or the off-campus rate) when preparing their proposal.

However, the competitive proposal process does not lend itself well to our accepted Unit policies for how proposals are accepted under the WACFWRU mission, nor to how waiver is allocated to projects. Therefore, for competitive proposals, the WACFWRU will adopt the following process:

1. Scientists submitting to competitive grant opportunities, if they approach the WACFWRU about budgeting, will be advised that, if their project falls under the WACFWRU mission, they may budget based on the off-campus indirect cost rate (currently 26%) per the Cooperative Agreement.
2. To save the time of Cooperating Committee members and to avoid lengthy delays before proposal due dates, the Unit Leader will be tasked with making the decision of whether the proposed work falls within the Unit's mission. Investigators preparing proposals will be asked to submit an abstract with their study objectives to the Unit Leader for approval.
3. If the Unit Leader confirms that the project fits within the Unit mission, the proposer will be encouraged to use the off-campus rate in their budgeting, indicating in the budget that the funding would come through the WACFWRU.
4. If the proposal is successful, the PI will let the Unit Leader and Unit Administrator know, and will be asked to submit, in collaboration with the agency program officer for the competitive proposal process, information to the Cooperating Committee member so a determination can be made about whether the proposal should receive the off campus rate or should instead receive access to the 0% waiver.
5. If waiver is allocated to a successful proposal for some or all of the project funds, the agency program officer would be notified that they could either reallocate the funds that would have gone to indirect costs to other proposals or redirect it to the proposal in question, depending on their preference.
6. Final application documents need to be submitted to WACFWRU at least two (2) weeks in advance of deadline. This is the required time necessary to prepare materials and process it through internal UW channels. Therefore, PI's should contact WACFWRU as soon as possible to ensure documents are prepared correctly.