

Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit
Competitive Proposals Policy
August 9, 2024

There are several competitive research funding opportunities offered by state agency cooperators that fund research likely to fall within the mission of the Washington Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit (WACFWRU), such as aquatic invasive plant funding offered by Washington Department of Ecology, shellfish growers funding offered by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and periodic one-off competitive opportunities potentially offered by any agency. In these cases, indirect cost rates available through the WACFWRU can be made available for projects headed by UW and WSU scientists who submit successful proposals. However, the competitive proposal process does not lend itself well with the State Project Workflow followed by the WACFWRU (see depts.washington.edu/wacfwr/working-with-the-wacfwr/). Therefore, for competitive proposals, the WACFWRU will adopt the following process:

1. To avoid 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 (this decision is usually made by both the agency's Cooperating Committee member and the Unit Leader). Investigators preparing proposals will be asked to submit a title, list of personnel, abstract (including project goals, methods, and expected outcomes), and draft budget to the Unit Administrator, who will submit it to the Unit Leader for approval.
2. If the Unit Leader confirms that the project fits within the Unit mission, the investigator will be encouraged to use the WACFWRU's approved reduced indirect rate (18% at both UW and WSU for cooperating faculty) in their budgeting and should indicate in the budget that awarded funding would come through the WACFWRU.
3. Investigators should contact the Unit administrator as soon as possible once they decide to pursue funding to ensure that they obtain approval from the Unit Leader and that proposal documents are correctly completed and on time. If the investigator is at UW, final application documents need to be submitted to the Unit Administrator a minimum of two weeks in advance of the proposal deadline (three weeks if the proposal involves subawards). This is the required time necessary to prepare materials and process the proposal through internal UW channels. WSU investigators should account for WSU's internal deadlines once they obtain approval from the Unit Leader.

For additional questions, investigators are welcome to reach out to Sarah Converse, Unit Leader, at sconver@uw.edu or Sarah Romero, Unit Administrator, at sarahjh@uw.edu.