The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN), a collaborative program between the California Department of Fish and Wildlife - OSPR and the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center at University of California, Davis’ School of Veterinary Medicine, is currently seeking research and technology development proposals from wildlife professionals interested in furthering OWCN goals for the 2017 – 2018 funding period.

Specifically, we are soliciting:
- Pre-proposals for full research projects (> $10,000/yr for up to three years, with yearly re-application)
- Small grant proposals for lower-cost/pilot research projects (up to $10,000 for one year of funding)

**Goals of the OWCN’s Research & Technology Development Program**

- **Improve Animal Care**
  - Identify new, and refine current, wildlife rehabilitation techniques
  - Develop and validate new oiled wildlife treatments & diagnostics
  - Determine and test methods for mitigating the effects of oil on wildlife
- **Assess Wildlife Health**
  - Investigate medical conditions that may affect care during oil spill response
  - Compile biomedical health parameters of commonly oiled wildlife species
  - Determine the health impacts of oil exposure, including those that persist after release
  - Assess the impacts of medical treatments and chemical countermeasures on wildlife
- **Determine Wildlife Population Information that Aids in Preventing and Caring for Oiled Wildlife**
  - Determine the demography & distribution of wildlife species in California
  - Understand how populations respond to oil spills (to improve rehabilitation protocols)
- **Develop New Technology for Oiled Wildlife Care**
  - Generate methods to detect/quantify oil exposure in wildlife, and to document their effects
  - Assess applicability of radiotelemetry techniques to monitor survival of wildlife after spills
  - Develop hardware to improve oiled wildlife rehabilitation & husbandry

**NOTE:** Projects with greater than 50% of effort focused on Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) issues will **not** be considered. Research done on species that are **not** found in California must be applicable to those species or ecosystems that do occur in California.

**Pre-Proposal/Small Grant Proposal Review:** Complete pre- and small-grant proposals will be reviewed by the OWCN’s Scientific Advisory Committee and evaluated & scored for relevance to the goals of the OWCN, its scientific merit/quality, and the ability of investigators to perform work/distribute findings. Pre-proposals that are successful will be invited to submit a full application. Full proposals and submitted small grant proposals will undergo rigorous scientific review, including an external review by a non-collaborating expert. Final funding recommendations from the Scientific Advisory Committee are given to the OWCN Advisory Board, which has final approval of projects.
Pre-Proposals and Small Grant Proposal Applications

Proposals must use at least 3/4" margins and 12-point single-spaced type. Sections 3-7 of proposals must not exceed two pages or will not be reviewed. Required sections include:

1) TITLE of PRE-PROPOSAL (< 100 characters): The title must clearly describe the project.
2) APPLICANT(S) INFORMATION: Name, affiliation, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address for principal investigator; name and affiliation only for all co-investigator(s).
3) HYPOTHESES AND OBJECTIVES: State the explicit hypotheses and specific aims.
4) EXPERIMENTAL PLAN: Describe the experimental design of the project (including statistical methods) that clearly addresses listed objectives. Include names of collaborators, and attach letters of support.
5) SIGNIFICANCE TO OILED WILDLIFE HEALTH: Describe how the project is pertinent to the goals of the OWCN (see box on previous page; please be specific).
6) PROJECT DURATION (1-3 years): If you are proposing the first year of a multi-year study, your pre-proposal should describe the first year of work only. If this is a second/third year of funded work, you should indicate that as well.
7) ESTIMATED BUDGET: Provide a one-paragraph budget, outlined according to the following categories: Personnel; Equipment; Supplies; Travel; and Other Expenses. Acceptable costs include salaries (PIs, staff & students; though PI salary may be a detriment if already supported), office expenses, equipment (> $5,000 but items become OWCN property after completion), animal care costs, lab fees and research-related travel (not conference or publication costs). Final budgets from selected pre-proposals should not deviate substantially. For multi-year projects, the total funding amount that will be requested in subsequent years should be noted. Indirect costs are not allowable costs on grants.
8) APPENDICES: Literature cited & letters of collaboration.

Review and Application Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Small Grant Proposals</th>
<th>Full Proposals</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jul 2016: RFP distributed</td>
<td>1 Jul 2016: RFP distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Dec 2016: Small Grant Proposals due</td>
<td>1 Sep 2016: Pre-proposals due</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Apr 2017: Grants selected</td>
<td>26 Sep 2016: Requests for Full Proposals distributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Jul 17 - 30 Jun 18: Funding period</td>
<td>15 Dec 2016: Full Proposals due</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Dec 2018: Final project report due</td>
<td>1 Apr 2017: Grants selected</td>
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Pre-proposals and small grant proposals may be submitted either:

1) Electronically: E-mail single document containing proposal and signed letters, if any, (scanned images OK) in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format to Lavonne Hull at lwhull@ucdavis.edu

2) By Post: Mail one hard-copy of proposal and signed letters, if any (scanned images OK), to: Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center, One Health Institute, 1089 Vet Med Drive, University of California, Davis, California 95616, Attn: Lavonne Hull

All proposals must arrive at the Wildlife Health Center by post or e-mail no later than 5:00 pm (PST) on 1 Sep 2016 (Pre-Proposals) or 5:00 pm (PST) on 15 Dec 2016 (Small Grant Proposals)
(Note: This is not a postmark deadline)

For additional information on the OWCN's grants program (including detailed application instructions and successful applicants from previous years), please visit www.owcn.org