



Western Integrated Pest Management Center

2020-21 Planning Documents and Pest Management Strategic Plan Request for Applications

This is the first year, the Western IPM Center is opening a separate RFA for IPM Planning Documents and Pest Management Strategic Plans. Proposals for these documents will be accepted year-round and considered on a rolling basis. There is no deadline to apply and approximately \$75,000 will be available in 2020-2021.

The application system has also changed this year for all Western IPM Center grants. All information must be entered directly into forms in the application (rather than attached as PDFs). We recommend preparing your proposal in a word processing program, such as Microsoft Word, and cut-and-pasting the requested information into the online forms.

If you encounter any problems or have questions, contact Western IPM Center staff member Matt Baur at 530 750-1270 or mebaur@ucanr.edu.

I. SUMMARY

The Western Integrated Pest Management Center (“The Center”) engages a broad diversity of stakeholders in the West to identify strategic directions and set priorities for integrated pest management (IPM) research, education, and extension for pest management in all settings. Through these activities the Center promotes the USDA Research, Education, and Economics Action Plan goals of effective, affordable, and environmentally sound integrated pest management practices and improved response to emerging or reemerging pests of high consequence. The Center supports the *National Roadmap for Integrated Pest Management* (<http://bit.ly/IPMRoadMap>)

The Center works to reduce the risks that pests and pest-management practices pose to people, the environment and the economy of the American West by supporting the development and adoption of integrated pest management. Our vision is a healthier West with fewer pests.

This RFA is limited to Planning Document projects that support development of Pest Management Strategic Plans, Integrated Pest Management Plans, IPM practices evaluations, stakeholder needs assessments and priority-setting activities, or similar planning documents. **Awards are capped at \$15,000.**

Pest Management Strategic Plans (PMSPs) are developed with a regional group of growers and other stakeholders to identify the pest management needs and priorities of a particular commodity or site. The plans document current pest management practices (chemical and non-chemical) and those under research and demonstration trial development. The plans also indicate priorities for research to fill knowledge gaps, regulatory changes, and education or training programs to support adoption of integrated pest management practices.

There are two current models for producing PMSPs, and either is acceptable.

Guidelines for producing a traditional PMSP can be found on the National IPM Database web site at https://ipmdata.ipmcenters.org/pmsp_workshopguidelines.pdf

Guidelines for producing an Integrated Pest Management Strategic Plan, an approach pioneered by researchers at Oregon State University, can be found at <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9238>

Whichever model is followed, PMSPs are not considered complete until they are approved by the Western IPM Center and posted on the National IPM Centers’ database. Proposals to develop PMSPs for crops that do not have a plan, or to update PMSPs more than five years old, are encouraged.

IPM practices evaluations typically query growers or other pest management stakeholders to gather information about the current pest management methods on a particular crop or in a particular system or setting. This category includes projects that are entirely advanced sociological analysis – assessment of the economics, adoption and impact of IPM practices based on data from past evaluations – or a follow up evaluation to document change in IPM practices or condition since the previous survey. Tools developed by the Crop Pest-Loss and Impact Assessment Signature Program (*Section V*) may provide guidance for building information and data resources needed to do practice evaluations.

Applicants proposing stakeholder needs assessments and priority-setting activities should clearly explain the need for the proposed activities and how that data collected will address Western IPM priorities.

Available funds. Funding of approximately \$75,000 is available in this competitive grant program. Individual awards are capped at \$15,000. Budgets may include indirect charges of no more than 30% of Total Federal Funds (TFF).

Who may apply? Eligible applicants include private individuals and institutions, faculty and qualified staff of two- and four-year universities, businesses, commodity organizations, and governmental and non-governmental organizations. The project director (PD) must be in the Western Region, but co-project directors may be from outside the region. The Western Region includes the following states and territories: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal submission. All applications will be submitted through a secure online system at grants.ipmcenters.org. There is no set deadline for proposal submission, and applications will be considered on a rolling basis.

Proposal timeline. Projects should last one year

II. REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Stakeholders from the 17 Western states and Pacific Island territories identify priorities for the Western IPM Center, and the Center is committed to addressing those pest management needs. The following are regional priorities established by the Western IPM Center Advisory Committee and stakeholders, and proposals should specifically address one or more of these priorities (maximum of three):

The list below is not ranked and explanations are to illustrate concepts and for clarity and are not designed to be all-encompassing or exclusionary.

Invasive Species – Creating IPM responses to invasive pests and resurgent native pests disrupting IPM programs.

Biological Control of Pests – For insects, weeds, diseases and vertebrate pests

IPM and Ecosystem Services – Using IPM to protect and promote ecosystem services in managed and natural landscapes.

Soil-Borne Pest Management – Developing IPM tactics to manage soil-borne pests.

Urban Pest Management – Promoting IPM for homes, schools and communities, including the safe use of pesticides in homes and gardens.

IPM for Indigenous, Insular and Isolated People – Promoting IPM for underserved communities and audiences.

IPM for Pest-Resistance Management – Developing IPM tools and techniques to reduce pest development of resistance.

New Technologies to Manage Pests – Developing novel and non-traditional approaches to managing insects, weeds, diseases and vertebrate pests.

IPM in New Places – Promoting IPM to new, challenging and changing industries, such as animal agriculture, aquaculture, chemically intensive cropping systems, urban farming, indoor production, etc.

IPM in Changing Landscapes – Creating IPM tools and tactics for landscapes changed by natural forces, including climate and fire.

IPM Culture and Capacity – Enhancing the acceptance of IPM, strengthening the networks, structures and institutions that promote it, and developing new scientists to lead it.

III. MULTI-STATE / ISLAND / TERRITORY / TRIBAL NATION INVOLVEMENT

A goal of the Center grants program is to support collaborations among states, islands, territories and tribal nations for purposes of efficiency, economy and synergy. (In this RFA, the term “states” is also meant to include individual islands within the state of Hawaii, as well as the Pacific Island territories and tribal nations.) Projects must have participants from multiple states or clearly demonstrate that the project will benefit more than one state. Exceptions are allowed when an applicant can document that the host/pest combination only occurs in one state.

IV. MATCHING FUNDS

No matching funds are required.

V. RESOURCES

Recipients of Western IPM Center grant recipients are held to the same Research Terms and Conditions and NIFA Agency Specific Terms and Conditions available at nifa.usda.gov/terms-and-conditions.

Complimentary to the Code of Federal Regulations and the Agency Specific Terms and Conditions, the NIFA Federal Assistance Policy Guide also provides direction for recipients of NIFA-funded grants and is available at nifa.usda.gov/policy-guide

IPM Toolkit. The toolkit for assessing IPM outcomes and impacts is available at ipmimpact.ucanr.edu The toolkit is a rich source of information and guidance for establishing a project evaluation plan. Please refer to this website or other similar sociological references and scientists as needed to assist you with this section.

Western IPM Center Signature Programs

Western IPM Center Signature Programs provide support to foster collaborations. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with the Risk Communication Signature Program, the Crop Pest-Loss and Impact Assessment Signature Program or the Protocols for Responding to Invasive Species in the West

Signature Program, where appropriate. For more information on Signature Programs, see the Center Projects section of the westernipm.org website.

Multistate Project Work Groups

Multistate project work groups supported by the Associations of Agriculture Experiment Station Directors are formed to collaborate in projects that two or more states share as a priority. Western IPM Center-funded projects are encouraged to leverage resources from multistate project work groups. Some examples include:

- W3008: Integrated Onion Pest and Disease Management
- W4185: Biological Control in Pest Management Systems of Plants
- W4186: Variability, Adaptation and Management of Nematodes Impacting Crop Production
- WERA 11 Western Regional Turfgrass Research
- WERA20: Virus and Virus-Like Diseases of Berries, Fruit and Nut Trees, and Grapevines
- WERA 77 Managing Invasive Weeds in Wheat
- WERA 89 Potato Virus and Virus-like Disease Management
- WERA 97 Diseases of Cereals
- WERA 1007 Curly Top Virus Biology, Transmission, Ecology, and Management
- WERA 1017 Coordination of IPM Research, Extension and Education in the West
- WERA 1021 Spotted Winged Drosophila Biology, Ecology and Management

Multistate project work group details are listed at <http://www.nimss.org/>.

VI. EVALUATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

A panel of reviewers will evaluate all applications. Most reviewers are from outside the Western Region, so when writing the proposal narrative and your biosketch, do not assume that reviewers will be familiar with Western crops, pest or conditions, or your program, abilities or past accomplishments. The review panel will score applications using the Proposal Score Sheet below.

PROPOSAL SCORE SHEET

Criterion	Planning Document/Pest Management Strategic Plans
Preparation (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information is clearly presented Meets all format requirements with all required forms and components included
Problem and justification (20 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fills gap in IPM Planning Document portfolio Proposal addresses one or more regional priority areas (listed on Page 2) Proposal documents multi-state collaboration or the crop/pest combination only occurs in a in a single state
Potential for Success (25 points) -Objective -Approach -Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMSPs will use Regional IPM Center's standard format and procedures, or the Integrated PMSP approach Evaluations or other planning documents will meet accepted standards for stakeholder information collection and summarization Collaborators have agreed to participate through letters of support
Anticipated Impacts & Evaluation Plan (25 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anticipated impacts link directly to project objectives and are reasonable for the scale of the project The evaluation plan details objectives, measurement indicators and methods Evaluation plan can: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) analyze the process of developing the planning document, (2) collect data to document change in learning, action, or condition, or (3) collect baseline learning, action or condition data about the pest system
Expertise & Participation (10 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biosketches indicate project directors and team have the expertise needed to successfully complete the project Project actively involves end-users (farmers and ranchers, land managers, school and housing administrators, etc.) as well as students, as appropriate
Budget (5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget is well-defined, reasonable for the proposed project, and within the project funding limits described in this RFA Proposed project costs are reasonable, allocable and allowable per Title 2: 2 CFR Part 200 – Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards Budget narrative follows the order of the budget form and fully justifies budget items
Underserved population (5 points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project specifically involves stakeholders or stakeholder groups who have not participated in or who have received limited benefits from USDA programs (for example Limited Resource Producers, Small Farmers/Ranchers, Minority Groups, Pacific Islands, Alaska, Tribal Nations, and Women)

VII. APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Applications are accepted throughout the year and there is no set deadline. However, the \$75,000 allocated to this grant program will be expended throughout the year and once spent, no additional projects will be funded until additional funds are allocated.

Applications are submitted electronically and applicants will have to register at grants.ipmcenters.org.

Project Narrative (Limit 4000 words):

Project Summary (word limit 500)

Provide a concise summary of the project proposal

Problem and Justification (word limit 1000)

Describe the problem and how this project is expected to contribute to addressing it. Include citations that document the stakeholder-identified needs addressed by the proposed project, and the regional priority area or areas the project addresses.

Objectives (word limit 500)

Include a concise, complete, logically arranged and numbered series of statements defining the objectives of the project. The nature of the project and its objectives will determine the ease of predicting success, but where feasible, indicate the likelihood of achieving the objectives in a specified length of time.

Procedures (word limit 1000)

Include a numbered procedure statement corresponding with each numbered objective that outlines the working plans and methods designed to achieve each objective. The procedure statement must show that the proposed work has the potential to accomplish the objectives.

Outputs (Word limit 250)

What will the project produce? Outputs may include publications in peer reviewed or other professional or non-professional journals, grant proposals, workshops, conferences, demonstrations, presentations at professional science society, extension or other meetings or field days, training materials, signage, websites, technical reports, and white papers.

Outcomes (Word limit 250)

Identify the project's expected outcomes and how they relate to the goals of the Western IPM Center. **Outcomes** are the *results or changes among individuals, groups, communities, systems or society* that may be influenced by your outputs. Outcomes are often divided into short-, medium- and long-term outcomes.

- **Short-term outcomes** are related to **learning**: Changes in awareness, knowledge, attitude, skills, opinions, aspirations, and motivations of the target audience.
- **Medium-term outcomes** are related to **actions**: Behaviors, practices, decisions made, policies affected or social actions taken by members of the target audience.

- **Long-term outcomes**, also called **impacts**, are related to **conditions**: Social, economic, or environmental conditions that change as a result of actions taken by end-users.

(Use of some of these terms can vary. For example, the IPM.gov website refers to all levels of outcomes as “Impacts.” But a true impact in the logic model-sense is something that happens beyond the scale of an individual.)

Evaluation (Word limit 500) All proposals should identify the **evaluation objectives** and associated **indicators**, and describe the **specific methods** that will be used to evaluate the project outcomes.

For projects focused on planning document development, an evaluation plan can focus on the process of document development. Many of these projects will be similar to focus groups. And as a focus group of sorts, the applicant can use the evaluation section to describe the collection of data that examines and analyzes the dynamic of the group throughout the process. In so doing, the applicant can collect information about the process success and possible improvements. This type of data would also help to understand the quality of the data being generated.

Additionally, the evaluation plan can:

- (1) Analyze the process of developing the planning document,
- (2) Collect data on changes in learning, action, or condition,
OR
- (3) Collect baseline data that can be used later to measure future changes in learning, action or condition.

Cooperation of Key Personnel and Institutional Units Involved (250 words)

Identify key personnel and each institutional unit contributing to the project. In multiple-institution applications, each institution must be identified, and the lead institution designated.

Applications must clearly define the roles and responsibilities of each person and institutional unit of the project team, if applicable.

If the project includes consulting, collaborative, or sub-contract arrangements, such agreements must be fully explained and justified in the budget narrative. Evidence must be provided that the project co-directors and collaborators involved have agreed to render these services. Acceptable documentation for this purpose includes letters of intent or statements of work from the individual or organization. Copies of either letters or email messages from the project co-directors and collaborators will suffice for this purpose. Letters of intent or letters of support from stakeholders should be included in the Appendix.

Letters of support: Please include letters of support from project partners. They should be attached as PDF files into Supporting Documents section.

VIII. FINAL REPORT

A final technical report is required in addition to the planning document. A final report must be submitted to the Western IPM Center no later than 60 days after the expiration of the project.

IX. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applicants will have to register at grants.ipmcenters.org and applications will be submitted there.

Tutorials about the grant system are available at:

www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbGDFwpS4sk7LMIQjLNicFCajhsj9WVwR

If you have questions or problems with the submission system, please contact

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The Regional IPM Centers are supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture and comply with the USDA-NIFA nondiscrimination policy (www.csrees.usda.gov/about/nondiscrimination.html).