

## **Guidelines for Cheoah Fund Proposals**

### **Background**

The Fund Board may fund the following activities:

- Monitoring of biotic and abiotic parameters.
- Addition of large woody debris and gravel and vegetation management in the Cheoah River below Santeetlah Dam.
- Other natural stewardship activities, including but not limited to, (a) threatened and endangered species recovery efforts, (b) control of exotic species and environmental outreach, and (c) education directly related to Cheoah River and Little Tennessee River resources directly affected by ongoing Project operations.

The Fund Board prefers proposals that contribute most to restoration of ecosystems directly affected by hydropower project operations and to those activities necessary for effective management of resources associated with the hydropower project (see link to map on webpage). The Fund Board shall also prefer decisions that would support matching funds and funding enhancements. The Fund Board may fund activities not directly related to ongoing hydropower project operations but only by unanimous consent of the Fund Board and the Licensee.

The Fund Board will not approve any proposal unless the proposal, or a defined and severable stage of the proposal, can be funded using the expected balance of funds. The Fund Board is not required to approve any minimum number of projects or to spend any minimum dollar amount in any year.

### **Basic Information to be Included in the Proposal**

1. Requestor name, affiliation, telephone, email, address.
2. Grantee (agency, non-profit organization, business, etc.). List any subcontractors.
3. Statement of Problem (1-2 paragraphs).
4. Proposed Actions (3-4 paragraphs).

### **Ranking Criteria**

The following information should be included in the proposal since it will help the Cheoah Fund Board make funding decisions.

1. Significance of the Resource – What species or resources are expected to benefit?
2. Severity of the Problem/Threat/Need – Why can't this be put off till a later year? Are irreplaceable resources or permanent damage at stake?

3. Relationship to the Smoky Mountain Hydroelectric Project – How is the problem or the results of the proposal related to the Smoky Mountain Hydroelectric Project? Does the proposal address a project-related impact?
4. Feasibility of Success – Are the proposed methods considered standard or experimental? Are adequate human resources (quantity and quality) available to complete the project correctly?
5. Level of Problem Resolution – How will this project resolve the problem described above? Does it completely resolve the problem, or are there other phases that need to be disclosed in this proposal?
6. Fiscal Aspects – Is the budget reasonable? What percentage of the total cost is being contributed from sources other than the Cheoah Fund? Is this a cost-effective proposal?
7. Deliverables – What are the expected products (data, reports (annual and final), presentation at conclusion)? [Note: Data MUST be provided to land managers in electronic format compatible to their needs.] How do you propose to distribute information and results (plans to publish, etc.)? [Note: The Cheoah Fund Board has an annual meeting during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of each year. Please indicate if there will be a problem presenting the results of your project at the Annual Board Meeting.]

### **Other Helpful Suggestions**

1. The maximum length of the proposal should not exceed 2,000 words (3-4 pages), plus a couple graphics. Though not an absolute requirement, a concise readable proposal will make funding decisions easier.
2. Maps of the area of consideration will be very helpful.
3. If you propose work on federal, state, or private lands, etc., you will need to provide documentation that you have contacted that entity and have their support for the proposal on their lands. Also, you must have all necessary permits (federal, state) if the proposal involves threatened or endangered species.

### **Submittal**

Proposals should be submitted to the Chair of the Cheoah Fund. Those received by September 1 will be considered for funding in the following year. Electronic submissions are preferred.