



Request for Small Grant Proposals

Deadline: **April 1, 2025**

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 2025 – 2026 funding period.

We are soliciting Small Grant proposals for pilot or smaller research projects (up to \$15,000/yr for one year).

Proposals with direct application to OWCN readiness and response will be prioritized!

NOTE: Projects primarily 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.

Goals of the OWCN's Research & Technology Development Program are to fund projects related to:

1. **Improving animal capture and care methods and technologies, and**
2. **Assessing wildlife health and welfare to inform prevention, capture, care, and release of oiled wildlife.**

Projects can focus on both marine and inland species. Examples of topics related to these goals include:

- Identify new, and refine current, wildlife hazing, capture, care, and release protocols and technologies to improve animal welfare and rehabilitation success.
- Assess applicability of telemetry/remote sensing techniques to monitor survival and fitness of wildlife after spills.
- Develop and validate new oiled wildlife treatments & clinical diagnostics.
- Generate methods to detect/quantify oil exposure in wildlife to inform capture and care.
- Determine and test methods for minimizing and mitigating the effects of oil on wildlife.
- Investigate medical conditions that may affect care during oil spill response.
- Compile biomedical health parameters of commonly oiled wildlife species where those data are not widely available (e.g., inland species).
- Determine the acute and chronic health impacts of oil exposure to guide and improve capture, care, and treatment.
- Assess the impacts of medical treatments and chemical countermeasures on wildlife.

Review Process

Complete pre-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 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.

Apply online at: onehealth.infoready4.com



Proposals will be submitted on the One Health Institute's InfoReady website (onehealth.infoready4.com). Required sections will 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). **Letters of support for all collaborators should be included in Appendix.**

3. **HYPOTHESES AND OBJECTIVES:**

State the explicit hypotheses and specific aims.

4. **EXPERIMENTAL PLAN:**

Describe the experimental design of the project (including statistics and sample size calculations) that clearly addresses listed objectives.

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 proposing the first year of a multi-year study, pre-proposal should describe the first year of work **only**. If second/third year of funded work, please indicate that as well.

7. **ESTIMATED BUDGET:**

One-paragraph budget, outlined according to the following categories: Personnel; Equipment; Supplies; Travel; and Other Expenses. Acceptable costs include salaries (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. **Indirect costs are not allowable costs on grants.**

8. **APPENDICES**

- a. Literature cited
- b. Brief (1/2 page) biography for PI/Co-I(s)
- c. Letters of collaboration – Required for all non PI/Co-I personnel and support (e.g., labs)
- d. Brief (1/2 page) statement regarding supplemental funds (applied for or received)

Key Dates & Deadline:

Open Date: **1 November 2024**

Small Grant Proposal Deadline: **1 April 2025**

Grants Selected: **30 June 2025**

Funding Period: **1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026**

Final Project Report Due: **31 December 2026**

Proposals must be submitted electronically on the One Health Institute's InfoReady website (onehealth.infoready4.com)

Please contact Katie Leasure with questions:

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530) 752-7526

All proposals must be submitted through the InfoReady website no later than 11:59pm PST on 1 January 2025 or they will not be reviewed.