



**OILED WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK**  
**Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center**  
**Competitive Grant Guidelines 2022-2023**



**SUBMISSION FORMAT:** Applications **must** be submitted by email ([kaleasure@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kaleasure@ucdavis.edu)) in Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format. Proposal must include a signed Application Cover Page (scans of signed form OR electronic signature acceptable), all materials listed below, letters of collaboration (may be unsigned), and appendices, **IMPORTANT: Proposals not adhering to the required format stated below will be returned without being reviewed.**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE:** E-mailed electronic version must be received **no later than 5:00 pm PST on December 23, 2021.**

**FOCUS OF GRANTS:** The mission of the OWCN is to provide the best achievable capture and care to oil-affected wildlife within California. As part of this mission, the OWCN supports research necessary for improving oiled wildlife spill response and the understanding of the short- and long-term effects of oil on wildlife. All OWCN-funded projects, regardless of where they are conducted, must be applicable to those species or ecosystems that do occur in California. Specifically, the goals of the OWCN's Research & Technology Development Program (and examples of appropriate research topics within these goals) are:

- **To 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
- **To 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
- **To Collect Wildlife Population Data 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)
- **To Develop New Technology for Oiled Wildlife Care**
  - Generate methods to detect, quantify, and document effects of oil exposure in wildlife
  - Assess applicability of telemetry techniques to monitor survival of affected wildlife after spills
  - Develop hardware to improve oiled wildlife rehabilitation & husbandry

**NOTE:** Projects with greater than 50% of effort focusing on Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA; i.e., proving or recovering damages from responsible parties, chronic oil spill modeling and/or beach surveys) will not be considered.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Senior scientists from college/university wildlife, toxicology and veterinary programs; federal and state natural resource trustee agencies; wildlife rehabilitation organizations; wildlife research institutes; marine conservation organizations; and petroleum and chemical industry research groups.

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR (PI):** All university and college faculty; officers or principal scientists at natural resource trustee agencies and rehabilitation organizations; directors, investigators, and senior staff at wildlife research institutes and petrochemical companies.

**FUNDING WILL BE EFFECTIVE: JULY 1, 2022 - JUNE 30, 2023**

**DURATION OF FUNDING:** In general, OWCN competitive grants are considered single-year projects. Proposals detailing larger projects extending over multiple years are acceptable, and the Background, Hypotheses and Significance to Oiled Wildlife Capture and Care sections of the proposal can be written as such. However, the Specific Aims included in this year's proposal should only include those aspects that can be accomplished within this one-year period and a proposed Timeline to address all hypotheses should be included within the proposal. Requests for additional years of support will be reviewed annually and extended if the Scientific Advisory Committee deems the work progressing adequately and additional support will help to further address project hypotheses. Projects will not be funded for more than three years.

**FUNDING EXTENSION REQUESTS:** It is expected that work as outlined in this proposal will be accomplished within the time frame indicated. However, should funding for a project need to be extended beyond June 30, 2023, a request for extension of funding may be submitted to the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. This request should present a compelling reason for extension of funding and must be accompanied by a progress report at the time of proposal submission. **Projects requesting renewal (e.g., Year 2 of 3) must submit an additional progress report in lieu of a final report by February 15, 2023.**

**FUNDING MECHANISM:** *Funds will be reimbursed in arrears upon receipt of invoice.* Spending authority on the grant starts as soon as a Research Agreement between UC Davis and the grant recipients' home institution is signed by all parties. Drafting the Research Agreement is done by UC Davis and is forwarded to a grant recipients' home institution. The Principal Investigator and his/her academic department or institution assume full financial responsibility for conduct of the grant. Expenditures in excess of the amount of the award will not be covered by the OWCN.

**BUDGET LIMITATIONS:** **There is no upper limit to budget requests;** however, a total of \$200,000 is available for allocation and cost effectiveness will be considered in the review process.

Funds *can* be used to pay for the following:

- Salary for postdoctoral fellows/graduate students and student/laboratory assistants;
- Salaries for principal investigators (PIs), technical staff and office personnel; although requesting funds to support those that routinely receive their regular salaries from federal, state (including universities), or endowed sources may be considered a detriment. Exceptions may be allowed for project time that PIs or technical staffs are not being paid by their institutions (e.g., on a leave of absence, or in cases where their position is less than full time or less than 12 months per year). Clear documentation should be provided with the estimated budget for any request for PI or pre-existing technical staff salaries that indicates their eligible status with their employer (on leave, reductions in time base) and the specific tasks that they will perform on the project;
- Supplies and expenses (including office expenses);
- Animals and animal care;
- Laboratory fees;
- Equipment (items over \$5,000) may be requested, but may become the property of the OWCN at the conclusion of the study; and
- Travel (for data collection/project implementation only).

Funds *cannot* be used for the following:

- Ongoing maintenance and operations;
- Publication costs (though funding of these costs may be requested directly by the investigator to the OWCN Director after successful completion of the project and are awarded on a case-by-case basis);
- Travel not associated with data collection (i.e., travel to conferences);
- Indirect costs/overhead.

PERMITS AND PROTOCOLS: Any proposal involving the use of live animals under the jurisdiction of the Animal Welfare Act, or requiring of special permits, licenses or approved protocols from management agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife) or associated institutions (use of radioisotopes, certain chemicals or recombinant DNA technology) must have the approval of Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or appropriate organization prior to allocation of funding. Investigators must submit a copy of appropriate applications or their approved protocols and permits with the proposal application. Approved projects cannot commence until the protocols/permits are approved and copies are forwarded to the OWCN.

EVALUATION PROCESS: Acceptable grant applications are reviewed by our Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC), which is comprised of doctoral-level scientists representing the wildlife rehabilitation community, the oil industry, and academia. Each proposal is reviewed by three members, who are assigned to review the proposal based on their areas of expertise, as well as by one of the three external experts either suggested by the proposal submitter or selected by the OWCN should none of the listed reviewers be available or deemed appropriate. **In the event that a member of the SAC is a collaborator, he/she is excused from the review process for that proposal.** Each proposal is ranked according to the following criteria: relevance of the proposed research to the goals of the OWCN, scientific merit/quality of the proposed research, and the likelihood of success (PIs experience, appropriateness of budget, availability of facilities in which to perform research, and the ability of work/PI to inform). If the investigator(s) is pursuing a new direction of research for which he/she has no record of accomplishment, the inclusion of preliminary data will increase the strength of the proposal. Each non-collaborating SAC member then votes as to whether the proposal is of high, medium or low priority for funding. The Committee then makes its funding recommendation to the OWCN Advisory Board, which consists of representatives from the wildlife trustee agencies, the wildlife rehabilitation community, the oil industry, and academia. The Advisory Board makes the final decision on proposals to fund, based on thoughtful consideration of the prioritization of proposals by the SAC.

PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS: Recipients of any grant from the OWCN are strongly encouraged to publish their findings in appropriate peer reviewed journals. Copies of publications resulting from all or in part from OWCN grants **must** be sent to the Wildlife Health Center. It is not necessary to submit manuscripts in press, submitted manuscripts, manuscripts that are approved for publication or galley proofs unless they are to be used in lieu of a progress report. In addition to publishing findings, recipients of grants are strongly encouraged to present their findings to stakeholders and other scientists to improve the understanding of the effects of, and care for, oiled wildlife. As part of the progress and final reports, recipients of OWCN grants are expected to submit a list of publications and presentations resulting from funded research.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT WORDING: Publications resulting, from all or in part, from OWCN grants **must** include the following acknowledgment: This project was supported (or supported in part) by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Oil Spill Prevention and Administration Fund through the Oiled Wildlife Care Network at the Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: A semi-annual progress report is due December 31, 2022. A final report must be submitted at the completion of the project and no later than December 31, 2023. Final reports include all findings and should include any publications, photographs, etc. that are generated during the study. **The OWCN reserves the right to place submitted Final Reports on the OWCN website (using a protected PDF format) one (1) year after completion of the funded project unless the PI provides a substantive written explanation (e.g., peer-reviewed publication in review).**

**OILED WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK**  
**Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center**

**FULL PROPOSAL FORMAT 2022-2023**

**NOTE: Format must be strictly adhered to or proposal will not be considered for funding.**

Use 1" right and left margins and 12-point, single-spaced type for all documents other than the Grant Application Form. Avoid non-standard abbreviations whenever possible. The Principal Investigator's last name and page number should be placed in the upper right corner of all pages except provided forms. Please organize your proposal as follows:

- 1) APPLICATION COVER PAGES** - Use pages 1 & 2 of the OWCN Grant Application Form
- 2) ABSTRACT** - Do not exceed space available on Attachment 1.
- 3) BACKGROUND INFORMATION** – Broadly describe the identified problem that this proposal will address, the findings from previous work (if any) to address or mitigate this problem, information pertaining to the methods that the project intends to use, and a succinct synopsis of the hypothesis. Please include all references in the Literature Cited section of the Appendix. Do not exceed 2 pages.
- 4) HYPOTHESIS AND SPECIFIC AIMS** – Include explicit hypotheses if the project is a scientific investigation or intended outcomes if it has a technology development focus. For multi-year requests, specific aims should address only those aspects to be accomplished in the first year of funding. Do not exceed 1 page.
- 5) EXPERIMENTAL or IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR EACH SPECIFIC AIM** - Be sure to indicate the resources already in place and ready to be used for this project, including facilities and major equipment. Include explanation of arrangements with other organizations. If wild or captive animals are to be manipulated or handled in an experimental setting, be specific as to species, housing and care, and include the cover page of an approved or submitted IACUC protocol for your institution. If a multi-year proposal is being submitted, provide a timeline outlining proposed components of the study. Do not exceed 3 pages total.
- 6) SIGNIFICANCE TO OILED WILDLIFE CAPTURE AND CARE** - Describe how the project pertains to the goals of the OWCN as described in the Proposal Guidelines. If the project is not taking place in California, describe how the project has implications for understanding or improving oiled wildlife and/or ecosystem health in this region. Do not exceed 2 pages.
- 7) LITERATURE CITED**
- 8) DETAILED BUDGET** - Use provided budget form (Attachment 2).
- 9) BUDGET NARRATIVE** - Provide detailed descriptions of the roles, responsibilities and specific tasks of each investigator listed in the Budget, including whether they routinely receive their regular salaries from federal, state, or endowed sources, and whether they are paid by their institutions less than full time, or less than 12 months per year). For Equipment, Supplies and Other Expenses not fully defined in Attachment 2, provide additional information. Do not exceed 1 page.
- 10) STATEMENT REGARDING SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDS** - List additional funding that has been received (or applied for) which can be used to directly support this proposal's research (Attachment 3). Please include one Attachment 3 for each funding source identified.
- 11) LETTERS FROM COLLABORATING INVESTIGATORS** – Proposals lacking letters from referenced investigators approving the proposed work will be considered a detriment to the application.

**12) ABBREVIATED CURRICULUM VITAE OF PRINCIPAL AND CO-INVESTIGATORS** - Use standard NIH guidelines for Biographical Sketches (Attachment 4). Limit publication list to pertinent publications over last 5 years and to 2 pages.

**13) APPENDICES** – You may include preliminary data directly pertinent to the grant application and all approved protocols and permits (or associated applications).

**SUMMARY OF DEADLINES FOR 2022-2023 OWCN COMPETITIVE GRANTS**

NOVEMBER 1, 2021	REQUEST FOR FULL PROPOSALS DISTRIBUTED
DECEMBER 23, 2021	FULL PROPOSAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE
APRIL 1, 2022	AWARD NOTIFICATION
JULY 1, 2022	ALLOCATION OF FUNDS
DECEMBER 31, 2022	SEMI ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT DUE
FEBRUARY 15, 2023	PROGRESS REPORT DUE FOR MULTIPLE YEAR PROJECTS
DECEMBER 31, 2023	FINAL REPORT DUE FOR SINGLE YEAR PROPOSALS

Questions may be directed to: Michael Ziccardi, Director, (530) 754-5701  
Katie Leasure, Administrative Coordinator, (530) 752-7526

**SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATIONS VIA EMAIL TO:**

Dr. Michael Ziccardi, Director  
(Care of Katie Leasure, Administrative Coordinator)  
Oiled Wildlife Care Network  
Karen C. Drayer Wildlife Health Center  
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