

Dear potential proposer to the ROSES-2014 A.4 Terrestrial Ecology:

145 Notices of Intent (NOIs) were submitted to Program Element A.4, focused on the Arctic-Boreal Vulnerability Experiment (ABOVE) field campaign. These NOIs were not required, but NASA is using them to identify the breadth and depth of reviewers needed to review the proposals in a very timely fashion, using NASA's usual proposal review process. The proposal due date is March 20, 2015.

In reading through the summaries supplied in the NOIs, we noticed a number of potential proposals that, if proposed as described in the summaries, would most likely be reviewed as marginally responsive or non-responsive to the solicitation. The solicitation was written to be very specific in the research topics of interest to NASA for this sub-element, specifically identifying five topic areas that are discussed in Section 3.1.2.

With respect to these topic areas:

- As stated in Section 3.1.2.1, highest priority will be given to the generation of the satellite remote sensing data products identified in Table 4.2 of the ACEP.
- Proposals to collect new data from aircraft are not being sought in this first solicitation for ABOVE research, regardless of the platform used to collect the data.
- As stated in Section 3.1.2.2, research involving collection and analysis of field data should clearly identify how they will contribute to an improved mechanistic understanding of the most critical processes and their interactions needed to address the Tier 2 Science Objectives and towards determining the ecological and societal responses to these changes. In addition, field-based research should focus on mechanisms underlying relationships that can be generalized across the applicable areas of the ABOVE Study Domain.
- As stated in Section 3.1.1, studies wholly focused on cryospheric or hydrologic states or processes, and lacking an ecosystem response perspective, will not be entertained at this time.
- As discussed in Section 3.1.2.3, for research involving the collection and analyses of socio-economic data, priority will be given to the specific Tier 2 Ecosystem Services Science Objectives listed in Table 3.1. .
- As stated in Section 3.1.2.4, all modeling research should make significant use of remote sensing data. Modeling research should focus on evaluating and improving modeling performance for Arctic-boreal social-ecological systems or the exercising or intercomparison of models to identify critical data gaps while there is still time to influence the ABOVE field program or to identify critical model weaknesses.

- As stated in Section 3.1.2.5, synthesis activities should focus on providing an integrated assessment of the results of previous studies that will serve as a foundation for future ABoVE research.

NASA will instruct all peer reviewers to adhere to the language within the solicitation strictly when considering the relevance of the proposal to the solicitation. Any proposal that does not clearly fall within one of the 5 topic areas in Section 3.1.2 of the NRA will therefore be evaluated poorly within the review process.

If this is unclear and you have any questions about whether your potential proposal idea would be responsive to this solicitation, feel free to contact Eric Kasischke (eric.s.kasischke@nasa.gov), who can provide you some clarification regarding the solicitation.