July 5, 2011

Dear Dr. Steven Wofsy,

This message is in response to your pre-application submitted to the Terrestrial Ecosystem Science Funding Opportunity Announcement, DE-FOA-0000536. Thank you for your interest in the program.

Your pre-application, "**Ecosystem fluxes of CO2, CH4, and other greenhouse gases, and photochemical drivers of BVOCs and O3, in the Central Amazon Basin: links between the carbon cycle and drivers of climate change**", was reviewed by a program manager from the Terrestrial Ecosystem Science team. If there were questions or if specific expertise was needed to evaluate the concept, the pre-application was shared with other program managers from across the Office of Biological and Environmental Research.

Based on that review, you are **Encouraged** to develop and submit a full application. While we are not providing specific suggestions to PI's in the preparation of full applications, a number of recurring concerns was raised in the reviews. In light of those concerns, we reiterate the following points from the announcement:

- "**Authors should pose their research applications in the context of representing terrestrial ecosystem processes in Earth system models.**" This is not necessarily guidance to include a modeler in every application, but rather to pose the questions in the context of identified (or unrecognized) needs for Earth system models and to propose mechanisms whereby the results of the proposed research would be made available to the modeling community.
- "**Applications for multi-investigator projects must present a management structure for integrating the research carried out by collaborating investigators**." Authors should describe the mechanism(s) whereby multiple investigators (often in disparate institutions) will be coordinated and integrated to produce the proposed results.
- "**Applications submitted in response to this FOA must include a description of the researcher's data sharing plans if the proposed research involves the acquisition of data in the course of the research that would be of use to the climate research and assessment communities**." We expect that many successful proposals will involve the acquisition of data that would be of use to the community.
- **"Applicants may request project support for up to three years with annual budgets not to exceed $350,000/year total costs. The proposed**

research project should be designed to be completed within the three year period. For an Exploratory Application, applicants may request project support for up to two years with a total budget of up to $150,000." The funding limitation for 3-year projects is the annual limit of $350,000 per year.

- "Applications will be subjected to scientific merit review (peer review) and will be evaluated against the following evaluation criteria which are listed in descending order of importance codified at 10 CFR 605.10(d): 1. Scientific and/or Technical Merit of the Project; 2. Appropriateness of the Proposed Method or Approach; 3. Competency of Applicant's Personnel and Adequacy of Proposed Resources; and 4. Reasonableness and Appropriateness of the Proposed Budget.

  The evaluation process will include program policy factors such as the relevance of the proposed research to the terms of the announcement and the agency's programmatic needs."

Thank you for your interest in the Terrestrial Ecosystem Science funding opportunity. Please feel free to contact us if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Daniel Stover, Ph.D.

J. Michael Kuperberg, Ph.D.

Program Manager
Terrestrial Ecosystem Science
Climate and Environmental Sciences Division, SC-23.1
Office of Biological and Environmental Research