

Northwest Potato Research Consortium* DRAFT Request for Concept Proposals and Research Review Process and Schedule

*A Cooperative Effort of the Potato Commissions of ID, OR, & WA

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Background

In February 2012 the state potato commissions in Washington, Idaho, and Oregon launched a cooperative effort in funding research. One aim of this initiative is to increase cooperation and efficiency of the research and extension programs funded by the three potato commissions totaling about \$1.5 million annually. A second aim is to facilitate production of competitive grants targeting other source, including federal grant-funding program for potato research in the Northwest. Potato production across the region is comparable and faces similar research gaps. For the *eighth* year, this research funding will be allocated through a cooperative 3-commission research review process during the fall-winter of 2020-21. A nine-member Consortium board is responsible for reviewing research and making funding recommendations to the commissions. They also seek input from a wide range of growers and other industry professionals in all three states.

Scope

The Consortium funds research projects on all aspects of potato production, breeding/variety development, genetics, and storage, and is open to considering research in food product development, processing, etc. All persons contemplating a new project should consult the list of funded projects posted here:

<https://www.nwpotatoresearch.com/current-projects/> to avoid proposing a project that duplicates or overlaps with existing research. We welcome scientists new to our funding to engage with us. A good first step is to contact Consortium Manager Dr. Andy Jensen and discuss how your expertise might fit the research needs of the potato industry. Other valuable sources of guidance and input on research ideas are the established potato research and extension scientists across the region.

The Consortium encourages collaboration across state borders and disciplines. When considering a joint proposal, **please be sure that the proposed work is truly collaborative, i.e. all parties work together toward an agreed-on set of goals, objectives, and methods. All cooperating scientists must be involved in writing and editing a collaborative proposal to the Consortium (including concept proposals).** Finally, the Consortium recognizes that some research is best handled by a single lab or scientist and is interested in teams and collaboration only when it benefits the quality of the research.

Extension-specific projects currently funded by the potato commissions continue to be

single-state projects and are not subject to Consortium review. Each commission has a mechanism in place for review and approval of such extension funding.

The commissions agree that all projects that are primarily research-oriented must be submitted through the Consortium process, as described below. This is true regardless of how that project was ultimately funded/handled during the past several years. If it is primarily research, it must come through our 3-state Consortium process. The only exceptions to this rule are projects that are specifically requested by an individual commission.

Timeline for fall/winter of 2020-21

Concept Proposals

Scientists will put together brief project idea documents (2 pages max, format below) describing their team and their project objectives and rationale. **All projects must submit concept proposals, even if they were funded last year.** As always, there is no guarantee that continuing projects will be funded. Concept proposals must be submitted to Andy Jensen (ajensen@potatoes.com) by midnight on October 7, 2020. If requested well before the due date, Andy Jensen is available to read and provide comments or suggestions on draft concept proposals.

Concept proposals will be provided to Consortium board members, who will review them and decide which to invite for the full proposal process. They will also make suggestions and comments for PIs to consider while preparing their full proposals. **Presentations will not be required of PIs at the concept proposal stage.** Announcements regarding which proposals are invited to the full proposal process will be made during the last week of October or first week of November.

Full Proposals

Scientists invited to prepare a full proposal will be provided formatting instructions and review criteria during the first week of November. Full proposals must be submitted to Andy Jensen (ajensen@potatoes.com) by midnight on December 15, 2020.

Proposal presentations: February 2-3, 2021, tentatively Boise, Idaho, Best Western Vista Inn (near the airport): Scientists will be scheduled to present full proposals and answer questions from a group composed of potato industry members. Proposal presentations, with PowerPoint if desired, will be allowed about 15 minutes and should include a project justification, hypotheses to be tested, objectives, and methods. Presenters should allow opportunity for questions from the audience of industry members. Projects on related topics will be grouped together to the extent possible. *This in-person meeting may be canceled or modified based on COVID-19 restrictions that might be in place at that time.*

Industry members from each state will be present to help rank and comment on each proposal. These industry members (30-50 persons in total) are invited by the potato commissions and represent growers, processors, chemical registrants and distributors, consultants, etc.

Our goal is to have discussion among all present, i.e. scientists and industry members, about each proposal. Following the discussions, and rankings by all industry members in attendance, the Consortium board will arrive at decisions regarding projects to fund for the coming year and make formal recommendations to the three Commission boards.

Reporting requirements for funded projects will be distributed with award notifications in the spring, and in a document posted at <https://nwpotatoresearch.com/>.

Concept Proposal Submitted to the Potato Research Consortium (2 pages maximum length)

Title: The title of the project should be as informative as possible, yet brief.

Year Initiated: xxxx. Current Year: 2021-22. Terminating Year xxxx.

(Use a fiscal year format for years – 201X-1X. The period shown under "Year Initiated" would thus be the period that funding was first received for the project. The "Terminating Year" is the last period for which funding will be requested under the project; ongoing projects funded for many years should indicate so using the word “ongoing” here.)

Personnel & Cooperators:

Provide names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses of all those listed here. You are welcome to create a table of personnel involved. Specifically identify those who will be funded to do work on this project and those who will cooperate without being funded. All such personnel listed here MUST be aware of the concept proposal and MUST have agreed to participate in the way(s) described.

Funding Request for 2021-22:

Provide an estimated funding request for this project for the coming year. Do not attempt to show the cost for each Commission or any other breakdown of costs.

Introduction: Problem Statement, Research Question(s) & Justification:

Avoid unnecessary introductions to potato production, importance of the crop, etc. Provide a statement that clearly defines the problem addressed by your research and the rationale for this project. Include clear and thorough arguments regarding how the proposed work will build on existing knowledge, previous research, and existing literature on the subject. Cite existing literature; no need for a literature cited section in this document, but one will be expected for full proposals. Be sure to search the “grey literature” as well, which was sometimes the only way previous commission-funded work was published (e.g. try the research library at <https://www.nwpotatoresearch.com/>). Where appropriate, state how this project relates to other ongoing work in the Northwest. If this is a partially-complete multi-year project, please update this section of the concept proposal based on, and framed within, your results to date. Figures and photographs are encouraged.

Goal(s), Hypothesis, & Objectives:

Provide specific objectives that will address your core hypotheses and can realistically be accomplished during the project period. Which objectives will be addressed during this funding year (i.e. during 2021-2022)? If this is a partially-complete multi-year project, be sure to update the objectives section to reflect what has been accomplished so far, and any changes to continuing objectives that were warranted or mandated by that progress.

Collaboration: Briefly describe the role to be played by each scientist, and the communication plan among the cooperators.

Additional grant funding: If funded by the Consortium, would this project lead to

submission to any other grant programs (e.g. federal or state), thereby leveraging Consortium funds?