

teacher learns how to conduct a "meaningful" outdoor experience in his/her classroom (see Section II (A) for details on "meaningful" outdoor experiences). Projects should provide teachers with the background information, materials and resources needed to conduct an experience. Proposals may include implementation grants for the teachers to carry out a "meaningful" outdoor experience in their classrooms.

2. *Projects involve external sharing and communication.* Projects should promote peer-to-peer sharing and emphasize the need for external sharing and communication. Projects should include a mechanism that encourages teachers to share their experiences with other teachers and with the environmental education community.

3. *Projects demonstrate partnerships:* Project proposals should include partners involving any of the eligible applicants. Partnerships refers to the forming of a collaborative working relationship between two or more organizations. The B-WET Program strongly encourages applicants to partner with schools and/or school systems. All partners should be actively involved in the project, not just supply equipment or curricula.

### III. Funding

#### A. Funding Availability

This solicitation announces that approximately \$250,000 will be made available for environmental education projects in the Monterey Bay (CA) watershed in FY 2003. About \$125,000 will be for proposals that provide opportunities for students (K through 12) in the Monterey Bay (CA) watershed to participate in a "Meaningful" Outdoor Experience. About \$125,000 will be for proposals that provide opportunities for Professional Development in the area of Environmental Education for Teachers in the Monterey Bay (CA) watershed.

There is no guarantee that sufficient funds will be available to make awards for all qualified projects. The exact amount of funds that may be awarded will be determined in pre-award negotiations between the applicant and NOAA representatives. Publication of this notice does not oblige NOAA to award any specific project or to obligate any available funds. If applicants incur any costs prior to an award being made, they do so solely at their own risk of not being reimbursed by the government. Notwithstanding verbal or written assurance that may have been received, there is no obligation on the part of NOAA to cover pre-award costs unless

approved by the Grants Officer as part of the terms when the award is made.

#### B. Award Limits

The B-WET Program anticipates that typical project awards for "Meaningful" Outdoor Experiences for Students and Professional Development in the Area of Environmental Education for Teachers will range from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Proposals will be considered for funds greater than the specified ranges.

#### C. Funding Instrument

Whether the funding instrument is a grant or a cooperative agreement will be determined by the whether there is substantial NOAA involvement in the project. A cooperative agreement will be used if NOAA shares responsibility for management, control, direction, or performance of the project with the recipient. Specific terms regarding substantial involvement will be contained in special award conditions.

#### D. Cost-sharing Requirements

The NOAA strongly encourages applicants applying for either area of interest to share as much of the costs of the award as possible. Funds from other Federal awards may not be considered matching funds. The nature of the contribution (cash versus in-kind) and the amount of matching funds will be taken into consideration in the final selection process. Priority selection will be given to proposals that propose cash rather than in-kind contributions.

### IV. Instructions for Application

#### A. Eligible Applicants

Eligible applicants for both areas of interest include state, local and Indian tribal governments, institutions of higher education, other non-profit organizations and commercial organizations. These may include K-through-12 public and independent schools and school systems and community-based organizations.

The Department of Commerce/ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (DOC/NOAA) is strongly committed to broadening the participation of historically black colleges and universities, Hispanic serving institutions, tribal colleges and universities, and institutions that work in undeserved areas. The NOAA encourages proposals involving any of the above institutions.

#### B. Project Award Period

The B-WET Program will make awards for a period of one year. Projects should begin no later than October 1, 2003.

#### C. Format and Requirements

Proposals must be complete and must follow the format described in this notice. Potential recipients may submit separate proposals for each area of interest (i.e., "Meaningful" Outdoor Experiences for Students or Professional Development in the Area of Environmental Education for Teachers). Applicants should not assume prior knowledge on the part of the NOAA as to the relative merits of the project described in the application.

1. *Proposal format:* Applicants are required to submit one signed original and two copies of the full proposal (submission of five additional hard copies is encouraged to expedite the review process, but it is not required). Proposal format must be in at least a 10-point font, double-spaced, unbound, and one-sided. Brevity will assist reviewers and program staff in dealing effectively with proposals. Therefore, the Project Description may not exceed 15 pages. Tables and visual materials, including charts, graphs, maps, photographs, and other pictorial presentations are not included in the 15-page limitation. Appendices may be included but must not exceed a total of 10-pages in length. Appendices may include information such as curriculum, resumes, and/or letters of endorsement. Additional informational material will be disregarded. Proposals must include the following information:

a. Project summary (1-page limit): It is recommended that each proposal contain a summary of no more than one page that provides the following:

- (1) Organization title.
- (2) Address, telephone number, and email address of applicant.
- (3) Area of interest for which you are applying (i.e., "Meaningful" Outdoor Experiences for Students; Professional Development in the Area of Environmental Education for Teachers).
- (4) Project title.
- (5) Project duration (1 year project period beginning to end dates, starting on the first of the month and ending on the last day of the month).
- (6) Principal Investigator(s) (PI).
- (7) Project objectives.
- (8) Summary of work to be performed (include number of teachers and/or students that will be involved in your project).
- (9) Total Federal funds requested.
- (10) Cost-sharing to be provided from non-Federal sources, if any. Specify whether contributions are cash or in-kind.
- (11) Total project cost.

b. Project description (15-page limit): Describe precisely what your project