

**Request for Seed Grant Proposals  
in Support of Critical Zone Science in the Susquehanna Shale Hills CZO**

The Susquehanna Shale Hills Critical Zone Observatory (SSHO) is pleased to be able to offer 1 year grants to facilitate scientific investigations within the SSHO. This program is designed to foster participation from researchers and educators who are not presently funded within the CZO to accomplish work that complements ongoing research. We are especially interested in proposals that facilitate cross-site investigations between SSHO and other CZO programs.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. We anticipate funding 2 awards/year of \$10K each. We expect grants will be used for activities that further Critical Zone science in the observatory. Activities might include *i*) cross cutting projects between CZOs or *ii*) measurements that address cross cutting questions for the CZO network; or *iii*) projects that bring in larger diversity of scientists and especially students. Please note that grants may not be used for acquisition of capital equipment. We particularly encourage seed grant proposals from undergraduate or minority-serving institutions. Grantees will be chosen by the Steering Committee with input from appropriate team members. Criteria for allocation will include diversity of personnel and science, novelty, record of productivity, student participation, complementary of research to ongoing SSHO and CZO network activities, and significance of proposed research.

To apply, please send a proposal, with the following sections in this order, to Deb Detwiler ([deb@ems.psu.edu](mailto:deb@ems.psu.edu)) and Jennifer Williams ([jzw126@psu.edu](mailto:jzw126@psu.edu)):

- Statement of Proposed Work* including answers to these questions: What work is proposed? Why is this important? How will work be completed? When will work be completed? Where will work be completed? Who will do the work? (2 pages max)
- Proposed SSHO Interactions* including answers to these questions: How will the proposed research or education or outreach activity fit into ongoing activities at SSHO? What will the proposer need from the SSHO team? How does the proposer expect to publish their work (propose an approach toward potential co-authorship)? How will the proposer comply with the NSF mandate to archive all samples? Does the proposer promise to put all collected data online at our CZO website? (1 page max)
- Results of prior support to work on SSHO* (if applicable): please indicate what publications have been completed or in press and what public presentations have been made.
- Official Detailed Budget* with budget justification
- CV of proposer* (2 pages max): in NSF format
- Summary of proposer's current/pending support* (if proposer has other support): in NSF format
- Letter(s) of support* (no more than 2) showing that the proposer has contacted appropriate researcher(s) at SSHO to ascertain how to fit into ongoing activities
- Letter of commitment* (signed by authorized official of university)
- Current Indirect Cost Rate Agreement* (for your institution)

The period of performance for successful awardees shall be 1 year, with a recommended start date 90 days following date of submission (period of performance could be extended pending approval from NSF). **The deadline for 2014 proposal submissions will be 05/15/2014 and all submissions must be in Word document format.** Grantees are expected to abide by current agreements regarding sharing and publication of data collected in the CZO (<http://www.criticalzone.org>). Interested parties can also contact Sue Brantley ([brantley@geosc.psu.edu](mailto:brantley@geosc.psu.edu)) directly for additional information.