

**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 small, 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 also will consider proposals that facilitate cross-site investigations between SSHO and other CZO programs.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. We anticipate funding 5-10 awards of \$5-10K each (we have \$50k of funding available). We expect grants will be used for activities that further Critical Zone science in the observatory. Activities might include i) funding for researchers to conduct new measurements or modelling of the SSHO, ii) funding to deploy novel sensors or instrumentation in the observatory, or iii) funding for PSU students (i.e students on site) or non-PSU students to work at SSHO or a satellite site within the shale transect. 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 near our satellite sites. Grantees will be chosen by the Steering Committee with input from appropriate team members. Criteria for allocation will include criteria such as 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):

- 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 coauthorship issues)? 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)
- Official Budget* with budget justification
- CV of proposer* (2 pages max)
- Summary of proposer's current/pending support* (if proposer has other support)
- 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 rate agreement* (for your institution)

The period of performance for successful awardees will be in the timeframe 1/1/2013 – 8/31/13 (period of performance could be extended pending approval from NSF). Grantees are expected to abide by current agreements regarding sharing and publication of data collected in the CZO (<http://www.czo.psu.edu>). Interested parties can also contact Sue Brantley (brantley@geosc.psu.edu) directly for additional information.