NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20550

January 8, 1985

Dr. Jerry F. Franklin
U.S. Forest Service
Forest Sciences Laboratory
3200 Jefferson Way
Oregon State University
Corvallis, OR 97331

Dear Dr. Franklin: Jerry & Dick

As promised earlier, here are the instructions for the preparation of your LTER renewal proposal. This letter should be in your hands before the coordination meeting in California. I will be there to discuss the instructions with you as a group and individually if need be.

Your proposal should be in the Program on or before April 12. All copies, including the signed original, should be sent in one container marked "Personal. Do Not Open In Mail Room." In addition to the original you should send only ten copies. Plans at this time call for a proposal review by a special panel in early June. A site visit, if necessary, would follow in July or August. Renewal funding, if the proposal is successful, is expected to commence in January 1986.

The proposal must follow the published guidelines for length and format (copy attached) for multi-investigator proposals to the Ecosystem Studies Program. Overlength proposals will be returned.

In terms of its content, the proposal should be built around driving questions and hypotheses that address major aspects of ecosystem theory. You must find a balance between reporting what has been done and proposing what will be done. There is no magic formula for that determination. My feeling is that the report of progress should be succinct and to the point and should lead with the hard science of the project. As in preceding annual progress reports, you should assume that there will also be interest in organizational aspects of the project, but they should not predominate.

The new work proposed should go well beyond tending to the maintenance of baseline data sets and previously initiated experiments. It should be scientifically assertive and should emphasize at least the following themes:

1. Intersite experiments and syntheses;
2. New, site-relevant, long-term experiments;
3. Resolution of landscape-scale processes and patterns; and
4. Creative and useful employment of mathematical modeling of the appropriate type and scale.

Considerable time has been spent discussing the general matter of budgets for the five-year proposal period. With the fiscal uncertainties that prevail, it appears to be advisable to be somewhat conservative with regard to your planning. The total, five-year figure for your budget should not exceed $1.7 million. The first-year budget should not exceed $325,000. Years two through five should closely approximate $325K, $340K, $350K, and $360K, respectively. For each year you should show convincingly that at least 15% of total funding will be devoted to intersite activities. Similarly, you should reserve at least 5% each year for the purchase of unscheduled capital equipment.

As mentioned earlier, I will be at the January meeting to discuss these guidelines in greater detail. Please don't call before then. Just digest the information and proceed with your planning and preparation.

Finally, I will mention briefly some aspects of your project which, in the Program's opinion, may merit special attention. The strengths of the Andrews LTER project do not require enumeration. Project extensions into geomorphological processes and the landscape scale of resolution need to be continually emphasized. Experiments incorporating major disturbance should be evaluated for incorporation. More comprehensive treatment and use of historical data should be entrained. The Andrews project's leadership position within the LTER network is generally acknowledged and should be carefully tended. As in the past, publication record for the project group should be carefully evaluated.

I look forward to seeing you in California in two weeks.

Sincerely yours,

Tom

James T. Callahan
Associate Program Director
Ecosystem Studies

Attachment

GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF MULTI-INVESTIGATOR MULTI-DISCIPLINARY PROPOSALS FOR THE ECOSYSTEM STUDIES PROGRAM, DIVISION OF BIOTIC SYSTEMS AND RESOURCES

Proposals should be limited to 60 double-spaced pages for the body of the research proposition (i.e., introduction, literature review, hypothesis exposition, methods, project execution and management plan). Appendices of supporting materials (e.g., bibliographies, budgets, professional resumés, catalogs of extant information and related research efforts) should be limited to 40 single-spaced pages. Proposals should be printed on one side only, numbered at the bottom, and should be bound only in the top left corner.

Proposals for studies involving only one or two investigators/ disciplines must comply with the limitations (i.e., 30 double-spaced pages of text) expressed in "Grants for Scientific Research" (NSF 83-57.

Likewise, general format requirements (NSF 83-57) apply to all proposals.

Proposals not adhering to these guidelines will be returned. Contact Dr. James T. Callahan, Associate Program Director for Ecosystem Studies, for further information (202/357-9596).