Project Pre-Proposal Peer Review Guidelines
Due: Wednesday, December 8th (2:00 PM)

Please provide thoughtful feedback to the group with who you have exchanged pre-proposals. We suggest everyone in your group first takes the time to carefully read through the pre-proposal individually. Be sure to jot down any notes or questions you have while you are reading. Then, come back together as a group and discuss the pre-proposal. Please add your feedback and comments using "Tracks Changes" in Microsoft Word into a single edited document that can be shared with the other group. Additionally, please answer the questions below:

Executive Abstract

Is the abstract 300 words or less? Does it contain the 3 required sub-sections: Intellectual Merit, Overview, Preliminary Results?

After reading the Executive Abstract, can you identify the gap in knowledge this pre-proposal aims to fill? What methods will the researchers use to fill this gap? And what are the main findings of their preliminary results?

Background & Conceptual Framework

Is this section written clearly? Are there sufficient background and in-text citations to understand the current state of the field? Can you see how the proposed work fills a gap in knowledge?

Objectives, Questions, and Predictions

Are there 1–3 clear research questions? Do each of these questions have an accompanying objective and prediction?

Experimental Plan

Does this section give you a clear overview of the experimental design?

Are there any accompanying figures or tables? Are these easy to interpret?

Methods

Does this section contain at least 3 sub-sections—Sample Collection, Stable Isotope Analysis, Statistical Analyses—with sufficient information in each sub-section?

Pilot Data: Results and Interpretation

Are the results and accompanying interpretations easy to follow? Are they tied back to the research questions and predictions?

Are there at least 1–2 accompanying figures or tables? Are these clearly presented? Do they contain captions with sufficient information to understand each figure/table without referring to the main text?

Future Work

Does this section contain new questions and experimental ideas presented as future directions?

References

Are the in-text citations and references consistently formatted? Are all in-text citations included in the reference list?