

**Project Pre-Proposal Peer Review Guidelines**  
**Due: Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> (2:00 PM)**

Please add your feedback and comments using “Tracks Changes” in Microsoft Word that can easily be shared with the group. **Please email us (Emma+Alana+Seth) the marked-up Word file by Wednesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and we will redistribute the files to each group.** When providing edits and comments, please consider the questions below:

***Executive Abstract***

Is the Executive 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?