

What is a symposium?

Symposia consist of 5 invited speakers whose talks are strongly integrated. Talks are 25 minutes with 5 minutes for questions. After the 5 talks, there will be 30 minutes available for facilitated discussion in a flexible format; session organizers are requested to use the time to advance and expand the conversation on the topic, with a view towards inspiring continued debate. We ask that organizers consider symposia an opportunity to start conversations at a deeper level than simple presentation Q&A.

Who should consider submitting a proposal for a symposium?

Symposia are ideal for an organizer who has several speakers in mind with different perspectives on a common topic, or is looking for an opportunity to showcase a range of information on that topic with an eye toward advancing knowledge and debate in a particular area. Organizers **must be willing to coordinate these speakers** and submit all info regarding their symposium, including all participants, their presentation titles, and short descriptions of their presentations at the time of the proposal. Organizers must register for the conference, and also need to inform their symposium participants that **each presenter will be required to register for the conference and cover their registration cost and associated expenses.**

Instructions and Judgment Criteria

On this page, you'll find detailed instructions for how to put together a 2019 Natural Areas Conference Symposium Proposal.

When you have read through the instructions and are ready to submit your proposal, click back to the main Call for Proposals Page and press Submit Proposal.

Proposals are due by April 15, 2019

Thank you for considering the development of a symposium for the Natural Areas Conference! We appreciate your efforts to bring the very best of your knowledge and insight to a wider audience at the conference, and to help us make this event as engaging, collaborative and cutting-edge for your colleagues as possible. We are pleased to provide a venue for you to advance a broader discussion of natural areas topics to this audience.

Please check for this year's conference theme and topics. **We ask that all proposals connect to the theme and fall under the heading of one or more of our announced topics.** We also ask that you consider our audience, which is primarily people involved in on-the-ground management and adaptation work, when submitting your proposal.

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Symposium Submissions

Our proposal submission form will ask for the following information, so please have everything assembled before beginning your electronic submission. Note that we use the same proposal form for both individual oral presentations and symposia. [Click here for an example of a proposal](#). All accepted abstracts are included in a document that is made available online to all those considering attendance at the conference.

- Name, email, and phone of event lead person. This will go in the required “Presenter” field in the submission form.
- The names, contact info and affiliations of all 4 of the other co-presenters.
- The topic to which the proposal pertains
- *Choose “symposium” as the proposal option*
- Whether one or more of your presenters is a student
- Designate your moderator
- Title of the Symposium. You will enter this into the Title field.
- Enter all titles and short abstracts for the 5 presentations in your symposium in the field marked “Abstract.” The limit is 2000 words so you may need to trim individual abstracts to fit.

Symposia Proposal Review Criteria

All proposals will be reviewed and scored by the conference program committee according to the criteria below. The program committee will also consider how the proposed session relates to other proposed sessions and fits into the overall program. The committee may accept, decline, or offer an opportunity to present the proposed work in a revised format.

- Strength of content
- Proposed session seeks to synthesize information or provide a broad overview of a compelling and germane topic to the conference theme
- Summarizes important advances or concepts related to the conference theme
- Content is focused on applied concerns, and topic is of clear interest and importance to managers/practitioners
- Demonstrates structure and organization
- Proposed session forms a coherent whole through contributions from individual talks
- Offers a range of objective perspectives and avoids the appearance of bias
- Outlines if and how the symposium will lead to further action (working group, white paper, publication, agency guidance, etc.)
- Offers a diverse mix of speakers, each of whom brings an important contribution to the symposium. We will look favorably on proposals that include student speakers

NOTE: Each presenter and symposium organizer will be required to register for the conference and cover their registration cost and associated expenses. Please make this clear to all speakers included in your symposium at the time you invite them to participate.