



BLACK ROCK FOREST

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David Redden Conservation Science Fund Small Grants for Scientific Research at Black Rock Forest

Guidelines for 2022

Application Deadline
January 28, 2022 5:00 PM EST

Announcement of Awards
March 4, 2022

Earliest Funded Project Start Date
March 15, 2022

INFORMATION CONTACT:

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BLACK ROCK FOREST DAVID REDDEN CONSERVATION SCIENCE SMALL GRANTS PROGRAM

BACKGROUND AND ELIGIBILITY

Grants are available to promote research projects at Black Rock Forest (BRF), funded by the David Redden Conservation Science Fund. Only studies focused on conservation science or with applications to conservation will be funded. Research can be focused at any biological scale - molecular to ecosystems. **Projects must involve research related to the biota or physical environment of Black Rock Forest and must be completed, at least in part, at Black Rock Forest.** Proposals seeking to utilize the newly installed wifi mesh network are highly encouraged. For more information regarding wifi coverage and other high priority research areas contact Research Manager, Katie Terlizzi. Proposals must be prepared by a Principal Investigator or Project Coordinator (hereafter, PI) who must be a faculty member, post-doctoral researcher, or graduate student at their institution. If a proposal is largely to support the work of a graduate student, then the student should submit the proposal with the written support of their advisor. When a proposal is being submitted by more than one PI (Co-PIs) one should be designated as the "primary responsible agent". This PI will be the primary contact between The Forest and the project team. The primary responsible agent will receive and administer finances, submit reports and be responsible for all communications related to the project and The Forest. Undergraduate and high school students may apply if their proposal is submitted in collaboration with a faculty member or teacher who will supervise the project. All students - high school, undergraduates, and graduates - must arrange for submission of a letter of support from their advisor stating their support for the student and research. This letter should also detail the role of the advisor and/or other mentor(s) in supervising the research. The PI, not the institution, submits the proposal and the award will be made directly to the PI.

The maximum request is \$6000; however, PIs may request larger grants if circumstances merit and prior permission is given by the Executive Director. Partnerships between institutions are especially encouraged and may merit larger requests. The grant period is one year and all proposals should be constructed to reflect a one-year project. A grant award neither prohibits nor guarantees a successive award. If a PI has previously received a David Redden Conservation Science Small Grant, all previous requirements (e.g., submission of final report) must be met before any new grant is awarded. Award funds may be used for stipends or salary (but not benefits) to support students, research assistants, post-doctoral associates, and for specialized consultants. Support in the form of summer salary, wages or stipends for faculty is not allowed. Travel expenses to and from Black Rock Forest are allowed. Faculty and students should arrange their own transportation to and within the Forest. Food expenses are not covered but lodging costs at Black Rock Forest facilities may be included (call 845-534-4517 or check our [website](#) for availability). Indirect costs or other forms of institutional overhead are not supported. Unless otherwise stipulated in the award letter, equipment purchased will remain at or be returned to Black Rock Forest at the end of the grant period.

Applications for the David Redden Conservation Science Fund Small Grants Program must be submitted via the [Black Rock Forest website](#) by 5:00 PM EST on Friday January 28, 2022. Consultation with the Research Manager is suggested prior to proposal preparation to help assess feasibility and define appropriate projects, methods, and budgets. Ms Terlizzi can also advise on current research foci which are of priority interest to Black Rock Forest. Grant administration for successful proposals will be governed by the conditions of a grant letter sent to successful applicants.

EVALUATION

Each proposal will be judged on the extent to which it reflects a well-conceived design, clearly stated goals, conservation relevance and a reasonable promise of successful completion. Research proposals will be scored as to (1) evidence of scholarly promise/productivity; (2) significance of the project regarding its potential contribution to the field; and (3) evidence of the

importance of Black Rock Forest in answering the research questions. Research awards will generally support independent, original projects that will lead to peer-reviewed publication and potential for additional funding from other sources.

The David Redden Conservation Science Fund Small Grants Program Committee, which consists of representatives from the Forest staff and Consortium partners, will make award decisions. Final decisions will be announced by written notification by March 4, 2022.

PROPOSAL PREPARATION

Contact with Black Rock Forest staff prior to proposal preparation may help determine if the proposed project is appropriate. Proposals should be submitted directly through the [Black Rock Forest website](#), exclusive of letters of support which should be emailed directly to the Research Manager (kterlizzi@blackrockforest.org). A reply email will be returned to the PI indicating receipt of the application. Applications that are incomplete after the deadline will not be reviewed.

Proposals should contain:

1. **Cover Sheet** This is the fillable form on the website. Provide a short descriptive title (< 200 characters). In the form, check all boxes that apply. If a research project involves human subjects, you will be required to conform to guidelines established by the NIH and NSF regarding consent forms and the rights, privacy, and welfare of your subjects. If your project involves vertebrate animals you are required to adhere to your institution's animal welfare guidelines as set forth by NIH and NSF. Research involving endangered species must conform to State and Federal regulations. Copies of institutional or government approval (*e.g.* IAUCUC approval, collecting permits, *etc.*) must be given to Black Rock Forest before the permitted activities may commence.
2. **Project Description** The project description is limited to a maximum of six single-spaced pages (exclusive of Literature Cited) with one-inch margins and 12 point, standard font. The **Introduction** should state the problem, the questions, or the hypotheses to be tested and the project's conservation relevance. Specific objectives for the period of support should be listed. Background material should be provided that puts the project in perspective and includes a brief review of relevant literature. The **Research Design** section should present descriptions of proposed research including the procedures to be used. Special emphasis should be placed on work to be conducted within Black Rock Forest, including lab space requirements and their duration. Schematics and or figures for sampling or surveying plots, transects, *etc.* are encouraged when appropriate. Provide a list of expected **project deliverables**, including data sets, maps, manuscripts, *etc.* Provide an **approximate schedule** for the stages of the project and plans for removal of equipment and materials from the Forest at the end of the project. **Literature Cited** should be the last section of the project description. The project description should be attached to the application on the website.
3. **Proposed Budget** Budget categories to be included are: personnel, equipment and supplies, travel, lodging, and other expenses (*e.g.*, lab processing fees). Please contact the Research Manager with any questions about allowable expenses.
4. **Budget Justification** Specify the reasons for the funds requested. If funds are being used as student or consultant stipends a clear contingency must be stated in the event of a change in personnel (*e.g.* if a partnership between Co-PIs dissolves, a special consultant is no longer available, *etc.*). Requests for equipment devoted to field or lab needs are permitted; requests for equipment costing more than \$1500 require manufacturer, model number, and web link with the need for the particular model clearly explained. Briefly describe expendable supplies requested. Unless well justified, requests for computers or computer upgrades are not allowed. Unless otherwise stipulated in the award letter, equipment purchased will become the property of Black Rock Forest at the end of the grant period.

5. **Other Funding** A list of current awards relevant to the proposed research controlled by the PI, including source, amount and period of support. If there are no current awards, state "None".
6. **List of Prior Black Rock Forest Awards** including a final report, any publications resulting from these awards, including conference presentations and posters, and the professional outcomes of student participants.
7. **Curriculum Vitae** of PI and of each student investigator participating in the project, limited to two pages single-spaced per person.
8. **Letter(s) of Support** Applications from graduate students should include a letter of support from the student's advisor endorsing the proposed research and briefly describing the role the advisor and home institution will provide in supporting that research (e.g., use of laboratory facilities or scientific equipment, expected involvement of the advisor or other collaborators in the proposed research). Applications from undergraduate and high school students should include a letter of support from the advisor or mentor with details of how that mentor will supervise that project. Any application from an undergraduate or high school student without a detailed mentoring plan will not be considered. Questions about the expectations for mentors of undergraduate or high school research can be directed to the Research Manager in advance of submission. Letters are not required when the PI is a postdoctoral scholar or faculty member.

REQUIREMENTS AND REPORTS

All projects at Black Rock Forest require prior written approval of the Research Manager and approval of a grant will satisfy this requirement. All PIs must file a written plan documenting procedures (including a COVID-19 safety protocol, in the event the pandemic is still ongoing at the start of the project), equipment and materials, discussion of access and safety issues prior to initiation of research if these issues are not sufficiently addressed in the grant application. PIs must submit data, with metadata in appropriate format, within two years of collection. **All equipment and materials must be removed and/or properly disposed of at the end of the study.** Substantive changes to either the project design or budget must be approved by the Research Manager in advance. Grant recipients must also cooperate with the BRF communications department in the event that their work is featured for public outreach, including possible social media posts, website highlights, or newsletters.

At the end of the grant period, the PI must submit a final report within 60 days. The report should briefly present and discuss the results, and account for how the funds were spent. A copy of any publication(s) resulting from the project, including in-house, peer-reviewed, non-peer-reviewed, or popular press, should be submitted as they arise. Publications should contain an acknowledgement of support from the Black Rock Forest David Redden Conservation Science Fund Small Grants Program.