

Newhall Land and Farming Company Southern California Ecology Endowment

Grant in Support of Terrestrial Ecology

Grant History

In 2004, the Newhall Land and Farming Company made a \$25,000 contribution to the CSUN endowment to fund research on the “ecology of southern California.” In 2006, the Department of Biology was charged with administering the awards and the first grants will be awarded in spring 2007. Thereafter, funds will be dispersed annually to the extent that the endowment accrues sufficient interest. The number and amount of awards will depend on the number of applications deemed worthy of funding by a review committee, but individual awards will not exceed \$1000.

Eligibility

Grants will be awarded to graduate students in the Department of Biology whose research focuses on the ecology of terrestrial organisms, populations, or communities from southern California. Here ‘ecology’ is broadly defined to recognize the multidisciplinary nature of the field. As such, integrative projects that incorporate perspectives from other fields are encouraged (e.g., conservation biology, evolutionary ecology, paleoecology, physiological ecology, etc.), but the ecological component must be clearly evident. Funds can be used to support fieldwork (travel to field sites), visits to museums, small equipment purchases, and expendable materials. Funds may *not* be used as a stipend, to pay salaries, for tuition, books, travel to meetings/symposia, or other non-research essential items.

How to Apply

- (1) Applications must include a completed application form (page 3 of this document) and a proposal that includes (a) **Background**, (b) **Objectives/Hypotheses**, (c) **Methods**, (d) **Anticipated Results**, (e) **Significance**, (f) **Literature Cited**, (g) **Budget & Justification**. Proposals must not exceed five double-spaced pages of text (not including literature cited and budget and justification). The budget and justification should not exceed two pages. The justification should indicate how each budgetary item would be used in the investigation. Use a 12-point font or larger and margins should be 2.5 cm on all sides. Double-sided copies are encouraged. The original and two copies of the application form and proposal must be enclosed with each application.
- (2) Include a letter of recommendation from the student’s advisor addressing the importance and feasibility of the project, and the qualifications of the student (education, experience, special training, etc.). The letter should also indicate that space, facilities, equipment, and permissions (state permits, IACUC approval, etc.) are in place to do the research. Enclose the original and two copies of the letter in a single envelope with advisor’s signature across the seal.
- (3) Submit the application packet (three complete copies of the proposal and three copies of the letter of recommendation) in a single manila envelope to the *Newhall Awards Committee*, Department of Biology.
- (4) Failure to comply with instructions will result in the elimination of the proposal from consideration for an award.

Deadline

All application materials must be received by 5 PM on 1 May. If this date falls on a Saturday or Sunday, applications will be due the following Monday. If any part of the proposal (including the letter of recommendation) is late, the proposal will not be considered for an award.

Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated for clarity, feasibility, general scientific merit, and the likelihood of the investigation to provide a meaningful contribution to the understanding of the ecology of southern California organisms, populations, or communities. Three or more terrestrial ecology faculty will independently review and rank the applications. A consensus ranking will be used to make the final award decisions. Some awards may be funded below the level requested. Application materials will not be returned.

Award Notification & Awardee Responsibilities

Applicants will be notified via electronic mail of the outcome of their proposal on or before 1 April of each year. The University Foundation will issue a check soon thereafter. Awardees will be required submit a two-page summary of their findings upon completion of the project and to account for or document use of all funds (including original receipts). The Newhall Land and Farming Company Southern California Ecology Grant should be acknowledged in theses and publications stemming from this support.

