

**Rocky Mountain Conservancy & Rocky Mountain National Park
Continental Divide Research Learning Center
2024 Call for Bailey Fellowship Research Proposals**

Due: 01 February 2024

Are you a graduate student that wants to conduct a research project in Rocky Mountain National Park?

Purpose

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy (RMC) and Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) Continental Divide Research Learning Center (CDRLC) is issuing a request for proposals for the 2024 Bailey Fellowship. The RMNP Bailey Research Fellowship is an endowed program of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy that is funded by the Leslie Fidel Bailey Charitable Trust. It is designed to encourage highly qualified graduate students to apply their talents to conducting research in the national parks. It is also intended to convey the importance of communicating park research to the public.

Areas of research can include wildlife management, vegetation and riparian studies, fire ecology, cultural sciences, archeology and historic structures preservation, as well as topics in botany, zoology, geology, history, ecology, and ornithology. These projects should aim to promote the informed decision making and adaptive management of RMNP or the education of staff to promote professional development and growth.

The goal for these funds is to conduct research that aids park management decision making. To qualify for the fellowship, the applicant must be currently enrolled in a graduate level program at an accredited college or university, show excellence in research, have a career interest working with and in public open spaces, exhibit the ability to communicate effectively to general and public audiences, and exhibit a willingness to contribute to the purpose of the RMNP Bailey Research Fellowship and National Park Service by sharing knowledge, skill, and enthusiasm.

Fellowship benefits include:

- Park housing for one person
- Living expense reimbursement stipend of \$12,000
- Reimbursement payment (not to exceed \$1000) for attendance at a professional conference within 2 years of completing the fellowship.
- Reimbursement (not to exceed \$1000) for supplies and materials necessary to conduct research.
- Requirement for the fellow to make a presentation for the Rocky Mountain Conservancy. An honorarium equaling \$1,000 will be paid after completion.

Proposal Submission and Review Process

Submit your research proposal application to Scott Esser, Director, Continental Divide Research Learning Center, via email at scott_esser@nps.gov with the subject '2024 Bailey Fellowship Application'.

Format for Fellowship Application: Research proposal applications should include the following sections:

- 1) Cover letter
- 2) Introduction
 - a) Applicant Information
 - i) Experience working in the mountain or mountainous terrain
 - b) Dates for Fellowship Eligibility
- 3) Overview
 - a) Title of research proposal
 - b) Dates of research proposal
 - c) Statement of issue
 - d) Scope of study
 - e) Intended use of results
- 4) Objectives/Hypotheses to be tested
- 5) Methods
 - a) Description of the study area
 - b) Procedures
 - c) Collections
 - d) Analysis
- 6) Products
- 7) References
- 8) Resume
- 9) Three letters of support

Projects will be reviewed and ranked by CDRLC staff panel. CDRLC staff may follow up with applicants with additional questions during the evaluation period.

More information can be found at the Rocky Mountain Conservancy website, at <https://rmconservancy.org/work-with-us/rmnp-research-fellowship/>

Examples of previously funded projects:

- 2023: Evaluation of White-tailed Ptarmigan Habitat Selection in Colorado
- 2022: Quantifying variation in disease susceptibility among boreal toad populations
- 2021: Elevational occupancy between two pika subspecies
- 2019: The role of plant physiological thresholds and resource use strategies in riparian ecosystem recovery
- 2018: Antibiotic resistant bacteria across visitation
- 2017: *Janthinobacterium lividum* soil bioaugmentation: A potential tool against Chytridiomycosis in Rocky Mountain National Park
- 2016: Benthic invertebrate response to climate and environmental change in the Colorado Rocky Mountains during the recent past and the Holocene