APPLICATION PACKET

Western
National Parks
Association

2024 | WNPA Research Grant

Request for Proposals

September 25, 2023

YOUR RESEARCH MATTERS TO OUR NATIONAL PARKS

National parks preserve our shared natural and cultural heritage. Public lands thrive when people from every generation and diverse cultural backgrounds connect with the complex stories and precious ecosystems that parks protect. As a researcher, you can help ensure that everyone sees themselves in a national park.

As an education partner of the National Park Service, Western National Parks Association (WNPA) funds scientific, historical, and social science research in national parks to help advance their management, preservation, and interpretation. Conducting a meaningful scientific inquiry is only the beginning of WNPA-funded research. One of WNPA's key goals is interpretation—turning research findings into relevant and authentic narratives that inspire in visitors a sense of awareness, belonging, and stewardship.

To support this vision, WNPA's Research Committee looks most favorably on proposals that include a plan for creating interpretation-related products of research. Products might include workshops, posters, presentations, maps, guidebooks, fact sheets, and other educational materials that the park can share with visitors. Our grantees work collaboratively with both the benefiting park superintendent and the chief of interpretation to achieve this goal.

For us, supporting research not only helps to create future park advocates—it can help to heal the past by revealing and sharing the significant stories parks hold. We look forward to learning more about your proposed project and impacts.

Thank you for your contributions, support, and commitment to the national park ideal and WNPA mission.

Marie Buck
President/Chief Executive Officer
Western National Parks Association

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GENERAL INFORMATION

INTRODUCTION

WNPA supports the acquisition of knowledge by providing grants in support of research that benefits the management, preservation, and interpretation of National Park Service (NPS) resources served by WNPA. The research grant program supplements research programs of the NPS. Grant proposals are reviewed annually by WNPA's Research Committee, which consists of board members and other volunteers with extensive backgrounds in science and other relevant experience.

GRANT PROCESS

- If you plan to submit a proposal, the first step is to communicate your interest by clicking on the link to Register Your Research Grant Proposal. This allows WNPA to gauge interest and alert interested parties when funds have been expended.
- Proposals are typically generated in one of two ways:
    - National Park Service (NPS) official determines a need for research and finds a principal investigator (PI).
    - Researcher contacts the park with an idea for research.
- Submissions must be completed electronically through the WNPA web portal **from October 2, 2023 through February 29, 2024 or until the allocated funding is exhausted.** The full RFP, including guidelines and application samples, is also available for download in PDF format on the web portal. WNPA Web Portal | Research Grants
- WNPA Research Committee reviews submitted grant proposals and approves funding awards on a first come first serve basis in the order proposals are received.
- Parks and the primary principal investigator(s) will be notified by email of funding decisions within 30-days of submission.
- Those approved for funding will receive an electronic copy of the 2024 WNPA Grant Awardee Handbook.
    - This document includes the grant agreement, which requires electronic signatures of the superintendent, chief of interpretation, and primary principal investigator as the final step in the grant approval process.
    - The handbook will be routed for signatures through DocuSign.
    - Once fully executed by all parties, a final copy will be delivered to all signers automatically by DocuSign.

FUNDING CRITERIA

Where We Fund

Grant projects must originate in a WNPA-affiliated park in Arizona, California, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming. A listing of affiliated parks can be found in the Learn More about WNPA section or visit WNPA | Discover Our Parks.

What We Fund

All fields of scholarly research are supported, including anthropology, archaeology, botany, citizen science, ecology, geology, history, natural story, social science, and zoology.

Who May Apply

- The park superintendent and/or their key staff identifies the need for research and seeks a qualified principal investigator (PI) or institution/organization before submitting a proposal. Qualified researchers may contact the superintendent directly regarding unsolicited proposals.
    - All WNPA research proposals must be approved and submitted by the park superintendent.

- Consideration will also be given to proposals submitted by active National Park Service (NPS) employees. Graduate students may not serve as project PIs but may be listed as a co-PI if the primary PI is the academic supervisor.
- A single park may submit no more than two proposals every year.
- Superintendents submitting more than one proposal in a year must rank each proposal in terms of its priority for park needs.

How Much We Fund

The funding limit for research grants is $20,000 for one-year projects; $40,000 for two-year projects; and $60,000 for three-year projects. For information regarding multiyear funding, see the section titled Multiyear Projects below**.**

GRANT GUIDELINES

Research Project Start Date

Proposals must reflect a start date no earlier than sixty-days from the proposal submission date and no later than September 30, 2024

Budget

- Travel, equipment, and supplies required by a PI to conduct their research must appear on the budget form and be explained in detail.
- All requests for salaries, stipends, or payment for any individual must indicate what work is to be done to merit the payment and rate of pay for reimbursement. Graduate student stipends will be supported but not tuition payments.
- An itemized list of equipment purchase exceeding $100 is required on the budget form. The purchased items become the property of the NPS when the project is completed unless other arrangements have been made with WNPA.
- Any supporting documentation resulting from WNPA-funded research, such as oral history tapes, photographs, collections, and specimens, becomes the property of the NPS; the PI and park superintendent are responsible for following current NPS policies and procedures involving disposition of such documents or items.

Non-qualified expenses: WNPA **will not** provide monies for the following and may deny funding if such are included:

- Publication costs.
- Active National Park Service employee salaries and/or benefits.
- Administrative or overhead costs of other organizations and institutions.
- Augmenting the salary of faculty members at institutions of higher education during the period covered by the term of faculty appointment or to reimburse faculty members for consulting if they receive a regular full institutional salary covering the same period of employment as the research project. WNPA regards research as one of the normal functions of faculty members at institutions of higher education.

Multiyear Projects

Under special circumstances, multiyear proposals, up to three years, will be considered, based on the following conditions:

- Initial proposal states the proper project duration and projected completion date.
- Project objectives, methods, participants for each year are clearly outlined, and estimated budget (with justification) is explicitly detailed.
- Submission of adequate and timely annual reporting for the duration of the project as required by WNPA.
- A park may have only one ongoing, multiyear project under way at any given time.
- The funding limit for multiyear projects is $40,000 for a two-year project and $60,000 for a three-year project.

Note: Failure to submit adequate and timely annual reporting for the duration of the project, as required by WNPA, may result in the forfeiture of unpaid funds.

GENERAL TIPS FOR COMPLETING YOUR PROPOSAL

- One of WNPA's key goals is interpretation—turning research findings into relevant, authentic, inclusive, and engaging narratives that both inform and entertain park visitors. The Research Committee looks favorably on applications that include a plan for accessible, inclusive, and creative interpretation-related products of research that will have a direct impact on visitor interpretation, particularly products that authentically represent diverse perspectives or reflect on civic engagement in the parks.
- If the proposal is a request for seed money to justify proposing a larger project to another agency, or if the proposed research will augment an already funded or proposed non-WNPA project, clearly explain the relationship.
- Priority will be given to those proposals for which matching cash or in-kind contributions are included. It is very important to note any matching or in-kind funds in your budget.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Online Grant Application

All proposals must be approved and submitted by the benefiting/host park superintendent online through the WNPA web portal. To access the online applications or to download a hard copy of the full RFP for reference, visit WNPA Web Portal | Research Grants.

Deadline for Submission

For fiscal year 2024 funding consideration, all proposals must be submitted through the WNPA web portal from October 2, 2023 through February 29, 2024 or until notice of allocated funding being exhausted, at which time the cycle will close.

WNPA Program Administrator

After reading all the provided materials, should you have questions or need assistance, contact Julie Tainter, business resource manager, at 520-789-7400 or julie.tainter@wnpa.org.

WNPA Headquarters is located at
12880 N. Vistoso Village Drive
Tucson, Arizona 85755

Learn more about WNPA, visit wnpa.org.

Resource Appendix

The following documents and links may prove helpful in crafting your proposal.

Research Proposal Examples
Past research proposals deemed outstanding by the WNPA Research Committee.

Past Funded Research Projects
Searchable database of WNPA-funded research final reports.

Research Proposal Evaluation Form (Sample).....Page 7
Illustrates the general review approach of the WNPA Research Committee.

Submit a Compelling Research Project.....Page 8
Compelling examples of research supported by WNPA's research grant program.

Tell Your Story.....Page 9
Outlines a variety of examples for how you might share your research project.

Sharing Your Research with WNPA.....Page 11
Supports our mission and goals while spreading the word about your research.

RESEARCH PROPOSAL EVALUATION FORM (SAMPLE)

Western National Parks Association

The Research Committee will use this form to evaluate your application.

Title of Research Project: _____

Principal Investigator(s): _____

Park(s): _____

Reviewer: _____ Date of Review: _____

Elements 1 through 10 are to be rated on a scale of 1 to 7—with 1 being inadequate and 7 being superior. Circle the appropriate rate for each element.

1.	Relevance of problem and research objectives to diverse communities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
2.	Methods are appropriate and respect the cultural heritage of the land	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
3.	Impact/implications beyond the park that strengthen ecological preservation and intercultural relationships for the future	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Clearly defined interpretive materials and/or presentations that advance equity, inclusion, and access in the parks and diverse communities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5.	Research goals align to strengthen stewardship partnerships between the National Park Service, local, tribal, and marginalized communities	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6.	Application uses language that is respectful/aware of Indigenous ecological and evolutionary/cultural epistemology	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Qualifications of PI(s)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8.	Opportunities for leveraging additional resources	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9.	Implications for resource management	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10.	Overall evaluation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Other issues specific to the application that the committee should consider:

The finalists should earn high scores in all areas. Other factors that might set a proposal apart include citizen science (public involvement in research), innovation (interactive brochure, video for visitor center), bilingual materials, an understudied subject, outreach via the mass media or a critical window of opportunity.

SUBMIT A COMPELLING RESEARCH PROJECT

The examples below touch briefly on the scope of research supported by WNPA's research grant program and represent compelling projects. Click Research Proposal Examples to view past research proposals deemed outstanding by the WNPA Research Committee.

EXAMPLES

Photo courtesy of NPS

Archaeology | Aztec Ruins National Monument "Closing the Gap at Aztec Ruins: Refining the Dating Sequence Using Corn and Pottery"—Though much of Aztec Ruins National Monument's architectural construction has been dated with tree-ring analysis, WNPA supported Paleo Research Institute's study to illustrate changes in material culture and site occupation at Aztec Ruins National Monument. Using accelerator mass spectrometry radiocarbon dating techniques, researchers dated corn samples and provided evidence proposing early interpretations of Aztec Ruins National Monument's occupation were incorrect. These findings provide NPS and the public with another perspective on the human story of Aztec Ruins National Monument.

History | Nicodemus National Historic Site "Collecting and Sharing the History of Nicodemus through Site Bulletins"—Four descendants of people who live in the community of Nicodemus were paired with two NPS staff from Nicodemus National Historic Site to research, write, and develop eight site bulletins to share the history of Nicodemus. The bulletins reflect the heritage of those who lived in Nicodemus, covering topics such as education, spiritual and gospel music, and quilting. The process of developing the bulletins also strengthened the individual and community relations with the historic site and NPS staff and fostered a desire in the descendants to get involved with the interpretation of their history.

Earth Science | Great Basin National Park "Meadow and Lake Sediment-Based Reconstructions of Holocene Fire Histories for Sub-alpine and Montane Ecosystems in Great Basin NP"—Great Basin National Park and Ohio University collaborated on a WNPA-funded research project to study and reconstruct Holocene fire histories for subalpine and montane ecosystems in the park. With biophysical changes on the extreme end of the range of variations, this project's intent was to improve the understanding of how regional climate change will affect fire frequency by documenting the fire regimes (frequency, severity, and extent) and assessing linkages between past fire regimes and long-term trends in temperature and drought conditions.

Citizen Science | Saguaro National Park "Graduate Student Mini-Grants for the 2011 BioBlitz" and "Evaluating Efficacy of Community Engagement Programs at Saguaro"—The WNPA-funded BioBlitz project provided grants for paying advanced graduate students to organize several projects (a study of endophytes, a bird survey, preparations to update a 1940 survey of 13,000 saguaros, and a beetle inventory) and oversee their assigned citizen-scientist volunteers. A BioBlitz is a 24-hour survey of all the living species within a designated area, and this event was the largest in Saguaro's history, with 2,000 schoolchildren, 1,500 members of the public, and more than 600 ambassador volunteers collecting data. The second WNPA-funded project focused on studying community engagement. This included offering underrepresented local populations free park admission and programming opportunities followed by tracking how many people used the free passes and took part in the programming opportunities.

Photo courtesy of NPS

Life Science | Pinnacles National Park "Lead Exposure, Altered Stress Response, and Reproductive Success in the California Condor"—In 2013 Pinnacles National Park lost 20 percent of the condors they manage. Researchers at University of California, Santa Cruz, in conjunction with Pinnacles National Park and US Fish and Wildlife Service, received a WNPA research grant to study the effects of chronic lead exposure on the California condor's stress response. This research assessed the biological effects of multiple contaminants on condor health and survival. The outcomes of the study helped park management to work with partners to develop best practices for treatment of low, middle, and high blood lead levels; develop additional research questions to document how chronic lead poisoning impacts reproduction; and to interpret and share research with the public and park visitors to promote awareness and understanding that will support condor recovery in the wild.

TELL YOUR STORY

A vital part of your research is sharing it with others. It is quite possibly the most significant way you as a researcher can help protect further research opportunities at other national parks across the country. Your contributions can help park staff make informed, science-based decisions to protect and preserve park resources. Sharing your research in an engaging and inclusive way encourages others to make lasting, meaningful connections to the park and the resources it shelters. By doing this you help others see the value and importance of preserving our natural and cultural resources.

Many Audiences to Reach

There is a wide variety of audiences with whom you can share your research—visitors to the park, staff members, teachers, members of the community, children, and students of all ages. By sharing your purpose (research question), what you've done (methods) and discovered (data and discussion), and what the big takeaway message is (implications for the park), you can spread your knowledge to countless people

How to Share Your Research

Here are a few ideas on how to share your research—but use your creativity, too. This is by no means a complete list. Decide on your target audience(s), then choose a means of presentation that will best reach them.

Remember—your research is more likely to reach and engage your audience if

- You include anecdotes and interesting stories from your research.
- You encourage some level of participation—many people learn better by doing.
- You keep science terms and jargon to a minimum—explain in everyday language.

Don't forget to keep WNPA in the loop about what you are doing, so we can help you share your research!

Ideas for Sharing Your Research Project

- Research assistants or shadows
    - Enlist a visitor, volunteer, teacher, or student to assist and/or shadow your field study.

- NPS park website and/or WNPA website
    - Pinnacles National Park posted some of their research data regarding the California condors and lead poisoning on the NPS website for all visitors to see.

- Social media
    - Create a Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter account to highlight and document your research work.
    - This could also include a blog that features the principals involved in the project and the focus of the research. Most importantly, tell the national park's stories.

- Lecture or workshop presentation
    - Give a 30-to-40-minute talk about your research experience or offer a one-day workshop.
    - Pinnacles National Park research was presented at three scientific conferences.
    - Condor presentations were updated based on research from the Pinnacles National Park project to include information on how chronic exposure to lead threatens the species.

- Fact sheet
    - Prepare key topic headings, around 900 words of text, and interesting, high-resolution images.
    - Collaborate with park staff to create a fact sheet summarizing your research results.

- Journal article
    - Write an article aimed at everyday people (not fellow scientists) and look for relevant journals or news outlets that may publish it.
    - Pinnacles National Park created a manuscript of their research and submitted it to the *Journal of Comparative Physiology*.

- PowerPoint presentation
    - Create a PowerPoint presentation (self-contained and self-explanatory, not a guided presentation) for display on a monitor so visitors can view it at their own pace.
    - Spark more interest by having a relevant, hands-on item (such as a feather) nearby.

- Poster
    - Craft a poster (ideally 3' x 4') that is visually captivating and not a poster for a science meeting.
    - Include the large concepts and key points about the "why" of your research.
    - Emphasize images and graphics and use a large font for easy readability.

- Discovery packet for visitors or students
    - Collaborate with park staff to create a packet of instructions and equipment to carry out a small-scale version of your research.
    - Include background information about your research project.
    - Park staff can use these packets to guide visitors in doing the research themselves.

- Classroom data and analysis activity
    - Provide a data set along with background information and photos of your research, as well as guiding research questions.
    - Work with park staff to create an educational packet that middle and high school teachers can use in their classrooms to teach students how to analyze and interpret real-world research data.

- Activity for field trip or classroom
    - Collaborate with park staff to make a fun, educational, hands-on learning experience, such as a product or game, that students can use to enhance learning on field trips or in the classroom.

- High-tech product or session
    - Make an educational product or experience with new technology: record a podcast, hold a video call with a classroom of students, or film a virtual tour of your research area to share online.

The endangered California condor

SHARING YOUR RESEARCH WITH WNPA

Supports Our Mission and Goals

Since 1938, WNPA has worked to connect generations to parks in meaningful ways, all with one simple goal: create advocates who want to preserve and protect these special places for everyone, for all time.

Sharing your research results, information, and assets gives WNPA the ability to create a story that inspires people to become a park advocate—more park advocates lead to more donations, and more donations equates to more funding for research!

Along with website content and social media channels, here are a few examples of how WNPA shares stories:

WNPA Blog Story

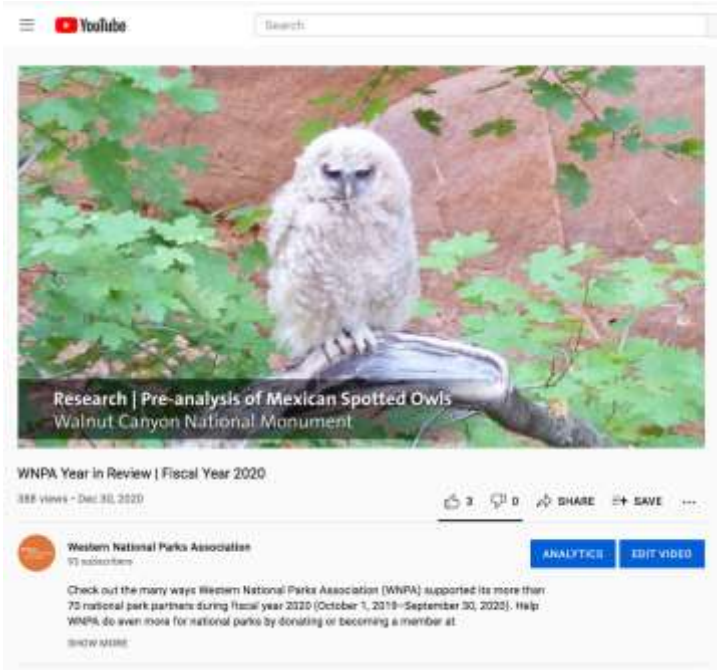
Bat Biologists Monitor CAVE Bats for White-Nose Syndrome

May 27, 2021

The Battle and the Battleground Bats, those insect-eating mammals we see at dusk as they flutter...
Read more »

WNPA Newsletter Article

WNPA YouTube



WNPA Appeal Campaign

New, amazing things are encountered every day within our parks, and **funding from WNPA makes these discoveries possible.** For example, Pinnacles National Park found what may be a new species of jewelflower within its borders.

Your contributions allowed us to give $10,000 to Pinnacles National Park, providing the salaries and equipment needed to fully catalog and protect this rare plant through a complete genetic analysis. NPS funding was not available for this project, so it is only because of WNPA's research grant program that this critical work will occur. **Your investment in WNPA makes this research possible,** and together we forge the trail for scientific discoveries of the future.

Support Parks Now

Sample Grant Applications

This form is provided as a guideline.
All project applications must be submitted through the WNPA web portal.
WNPA Web Portal | Research Grant—1 Year Project Application

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL—1 YEAR PROJECT APPLICATION (SAMPLE)

The information supplied is limited to the space provided and submitted on this form. A proposal received in any other format will be discarded. Additional attachments are not permitted.

General Information about Your Project

Research project title		
Park(s) where research will be conducted		
Funding Project start date must be no earlier than sixty-days from proposal submission date and no later than September 30, 2024.	Total funding request for 2024 Project start date Projected project completion date	$ -

Outline Your Project Costs

BUDGET

Priority will be given to those proposals where matching cash or in-kind contributions are included. It is very important to note any matching or in-kind funds in your budget.

PERSONNEL

Principal Investigator(s)

List first and last name	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source

Supporting Personnel

List first name, last name and position/role	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source

Total Personnel Cost(s)	$	$

OTHER EXPENSE(S)

Category	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source
Supplies and material	$	$
Consulting services	$	$
Computer services	$	$
Subcontract(s)	$	$
Equipment (itemize items over $100 below)	$	$
Travel and subsistence	$	$

Total Other Expense(s)	$	$

BUDGET TOTALS

Note: This should match the amount of the funding request.	**Total Funding Requested from WNPA**	**$**
	Total Cash and In-Kind Contribution(s)	**$**

Explain the duties that will be performed by any funded individual noted above. Also, itemize subcontract(s) cost(s), equipment costing more than $100, and travel and subsistence. If not applicable, insert N/A. RESPONSE LIMITED TO 500 WORDS.

If this proposal is a request for seed money to justify proposing a larger project to another agency, or if the proposed research will augment an already funded or proposed non-WNPA project, clearly explain the relationship. If not applicable, insert N/A. RESPONSE LIMITED TO 300 WORDS.

Who Is Involved with Your Project

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT(S)

Primary principal investigator (PI)	Name Company/organization name Address City, state, zip Phone Email
Additional principal investigator (PI)(s)	Name Company/organization name Address City, state, zip Phone Email Note: The online application allows for a total of four additional PIs requiring all contact information as noted.
Benefiting/Host park superintendent submitting this proposal	Name Park name Address City, state, zip Phone Email
Benefiting/Host park chief of interpretation	Name Phone Email ☐ Check the box if chief of interpretation position is currently vacant.

QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PI(s) CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH

List only those qualifications directly related to this grant request. Include a list of other WNPA-funded research conducted by the PI(s).

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 500 WORDS.

List the name(s) of research participant(s) who will acquire advanced degree(s) because of working on this project, if any:

Tell Us about Your Project

ABSTRACT

Provide a summary of your project.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 300 WORDS.

JUSTIFICATION

The submitting park should address the questions in this section.

1. Where does this project rank in the submitting park's research priorities for all funding sources? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 50 WORDS.

2. Are National Park Service-appropriated funds available for the project? YES/NO
3. If the park did not solicit this proposal, why is the project important to the park? If not applicable, insert N/A. RESPONSE LIMITED TO 50 WORDS.
4. How will this research enrich visitors' understanding of the park's complex histories and ecological challenges? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
5. What are the implications for interpretation and resource management? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
6. How will the research benefit park visitors? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
7. How will the research strengthen the relationships between the National Park Service, local, tribal, and/or marginalized communities? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
8. How does the research demonstrate cultural competency and awareness/respect of the park's Indigenous heritage? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
9. How does the research advance equity, inclusion, and access at the park? In the future? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES, DESIGN, AND METHODOLOGY

Be concise. Include the facilities and sites to be used.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 1,000 WORDS.

EXPLAIN HOW YOUR RESEARCH WILL ENHANCE THE INTERPRETIVE MISSION OF THE PARK.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

DESCRIBE YOUR PLAN FOR AN INTERPRETATION-RELATED PRODUCT OF THE RESEARCH.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

SPECIFY PRODUCT(S) AND/OR MATERIAL(S) OF THE RESEARCH (articles, theses, maps, checklists, etc.).

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT FOR CONSIDERATION.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE BENEFITING/HOST PARK:

1. Western National Parks Association (WNPA) is the grant funder (grantor).
2. The benefiting/host park is the grant awardee (grantee).
3. This WNPA research grant, if awarded, will be for one year.
4. If this proposal is approved for funding, WNPA will issue the 2024 Research Grant Awardee Handbook, which outlines the grant agreement, as well as all terms and conditions of the research grant. This document requires electronic signatures of the benefiting/host park superintendent, chief of interpretation, and the primary principal investigator accepting the grant terms and conditions for WNPA to proceed with funding.

By submitting this proposal, I confirm my understanding of the above disclosures and verify that I, and the benefiting/host park chief of interpretation, have reviewed this proposal and approve its submission for consideration by WNPA.

INSERT NAME	ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE	SELECT DATE
Name: Benefiting/Host Park Superintendent	Signature: Benefiting/Host Park Superintendent	Submission Date

This form is provided as a guideline. All multiyear project applications must be submitted through the WNPA web portal.
WNPA Web Portal | Research Grant Multiyear Project Application
*This application is applicable only to the second and/or third years of a current mulityear project **OR** a new multiyear project.*

RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL—MULTIYEAR PROJECT APPLICATION (SAMPLE)

The information supplied is limited to the space provided and submitted on this form. A multiyear project application received in any other format will be discarded. Additional attachments are not permitted.

General Information about Your Project

Research project title		
Park(s) where research will be conducted		
Have you previously received WNPA research grant funding to support this project? Yes, it is a continuation of an existing multiyear project. No, this is a new multiyear project. If yes, insert the assigned WNPA Grant Number _____		
Funding and project duration Project start date must be no earlier than sixty-days from proposal submission date and no later than September 30, 2024.	Total Funding Requested Length of project Project start date Projected project completion date	$_____ 2 or 3 years _____ _____

Outline Your Project Costs

BUDGET

Priority will be given to those proposals where matching cash or in-kind contributions are included. It is very important to note any matching or in-kind funds in your budget.

PERSONNEL

Principal Investigator(s)

List first and last name	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source

Supporting Personnel

List first name, last name and position/role	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source
Total Personnel Cost(s)	$	$

OTHER EXPENSE(S)

Category	Funds requested from WNPA	Cash or in-kind contribution(s) Specify amount, which type, and source
Supplies and material	$	$
Consulting services	$	$
Computer services	$	$
Subcontract(s)	$	$
Equipment (itemize items over $100 below)	$	$
Travel and subsistence	$	$
Total Other Expense(s)	$	$

BUDGET TOTALS

Note: This should match the amount of the funding request.	**Total Funding Requested from WNPA**	**$**
	Total Cash and In-Kind Contribution(s)	**$**

Explain the duties that will be performed by any funded individual noted above. Also, itemize subcontract(s) cost(s), equipment costing more than $100, and travel and subsistence. If not applicable, insert N/A. RESPONSE LIMITED TO 500 WORDS

If this proposal is a request for seed money to justify proposing a larger project to another agency, or if the proposed research will augment an already funded or proposed non-WNPA project, clearly explain the relationship. If not applicable, insert N/A. RESPONSE LIMITED TO 300 WORDS.

Who Is Involved with Your Project

RESEARCH PARTICIPANT(S)

Primary principal investigator (PI)	Name Company/organization name Address City, state, zip Phone Email
Additional principal investigator (PI)(s)	Name Company/organization name Address City, state, zip Phone Email Note: The online application allows for a total of four additional PIs requiring all contact information as noted.
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QUALIFICATIONS OF THE PI(s) CONDUCTING THE RESEARCH

List only those qualifications directly related to this grant request. Include a list of other WNPA-funded research conducted by the PI(s).

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 500 WORDS.

List the name(s) of research participant(s) who will acquire advanced degree(s) because of working on this project, if any:

Tell Us about Your Project

ABSTRACT

Provide a summary of your project.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 300 WORDS.

JUSTIFICATION

The submitting park should answer these questions:

1. Where does this project rank in the submitting park's research priorities for all funding sources? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 50 WORDS.
2. Are National Park Service-appropriated funds available for the project? YES/NO
3. If the park did not solicit this proposal, why is the project important to the park? If not applicable, insert N/A. RESPONSE LIMITED TO 50 WORDS.
4. How will this research enrich visitors' understanding of the park's complex histories and ecological challenges? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
5. What are the implications for interpretation and resource management? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
6. How will the research benefit park visitors? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
7. How will the research strengthen the relationships between the National Park Service, local, tribal, and/or marginalized communities? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
8. How does the research demonstrate cultural competency and awareness/respect of the park's Indigenous heritage? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.
9. How does the research advance equity, inclusion, and access at the park? In the future? RESPONSE LIMITED TO 100 WORDS.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES, DESIGN, AND METHODOLOGY

Be concise. Include the facilities and sites to be used.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 1,000 WORDS.

EXPLAIN HOW YOUR RESEARCH WILL ENHANCE THE INTERPRETIVE MISSION OF THE PARK.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

DESCRIBE YOUR PLAN FOR AN INTERPRETATION-RELATED PRODUCT OF THE RESEARCH.

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

SPECIFY PRODUCT(S) AND/OR MATERIAL(S) OF THE RESEARCH (articles, theses, maps, checklists, etc.).

RESPONSE LIMITED TO 150 WORDS.

THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING YOUR RESEARCH PROJECT FOR CONSIDERATION.

ACKNOWLEDGED AND SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF THE BENEFITING/HOST PARK:

1. Western National Parks Association (WNPA) is the grant funder (grantor).
2. The benefiting/host park is the grant awardee (grantee).
3. Multiyear projects are limited by WNPA to three-years.
4. If this proposal is approved for funding, WNPA will issue the 2024 Research Grant Awardee Handbook, which outlines the grant agreement, as well as all terms and conditions of the research grant. This document requires electronic signatures of the benefiting/host park superintendent, chief of interpretation, and the primary principal investigator accepting the grant terms and conditions for WNPA to proceed with funding.

By submitting this proposal, I confirm my understanding of the above disclosures and verify that I, and the benefiting/host park chief of interpretation, have reviewed this proposal and approve its submission for consideration by WNPA.

INSERT NAME	ELECTRONIC SIGNATURE	SELECT DATE
Name: Benefiting/Host Park Superintendent	Signature: Benefiting/Host Park Superintendent	Submission Date

Learn More about

Western
National Parks
Association

Western
National Parks
Association

OUR MISSION

In partnership with the NPS since 1938, WNPA advances education, interpretation, research, and community engagement to ensure national parks are increasingly valued by all.

OUR COMMITMENT

National parks tell the story of America, WNPA helps share that story, uncovering the diversity of the landscapes' natural beauty, culture, and heritage, through a continued commitment to discovery—new knowledge, new understanding, and new ways to engage with humanity.

OUR ROLE

As a nonprofit education partner of the NPS, WNPA supports more than 70 parks across the West, developing products, services, and programs that enrich the visitor experience, understanding, and appreciation of national parks.

The most visible expression of our mission is the operation of park stores in national park visitor centers, with many of the offerings developed and published by WNPA. Each store is unique, presenting products that give guests a tangible and enduring connection to the park's unique themes and diverse purposes—its majestic scenery, biodiversity, fascinating natural and cultural history, and stories of struggle, triumph, and justice. Visitors find a variety of educational materials, from trail and field guides to in-depth academic studies, along with authentic arts and crafts, collectible park logo items, and even food products that connect with the park's diverse cultures, communities, and ecosystems. Young guests can discover children's books, educational toys, and popular Junior Ranger merchandise. Our award-winning books and products extend visitors' experiences far beyond their time in the park.

Visitors at The National Parks Store enjoy the White Sands National Park *book launch with author Susan Lamb.*

The National Parks Store offers a variety of educational programs in Tucson, Arizona. Past topics include Native basketry, flute making, pottery techniques, and Navajo rug weaving, with attendance exceeding five thousand people annually. The premiere community event of the year is the sponsorship of The National Park Experience Pavilion at the Tucson Festival of Books. The Pavilion provides the opportunity for 20 national parks from the western United States to connect with more than 140,000 festival attendees, bringing our national parks to the people and the diverse communities they serve.

Two children interacting with a park ranger at The National Park Experience Pavilion at the Tucson Festival of Books in Tucson, Arizona.

Along with educational programming, WNPA provides direct financial aid to the national parks, supporting cultural, historical, and educational activities developed by park rangers. These activities enhance visitor experiences, create opportunities to inclusively connect with youth, and engage diverse local communities. Thousands of events have been funded, including an international youth Indigenous cultural exchange, living history demonstrations and encampments, several cultural festivals, Junior Ranger camps, art exhibitions, and archaeological and geographical surveys.

Historically WNPA has funded a broad range of research projects, all of which help advance the management, preservation, and interpretation of our national parks. For us, supporting research is more than just a way to amplify the efforts of our National Park Service partners; it is a means to help reveal and share the important stories parks hold to advance equity, diversity, inclusivity, and justice for all park visitors and their communities.

To learn more about Western National Parks Association, visit www.wnpa.org.

WNPA Partner Parks

Western National Parks Association

Arizona
Canyon de Chelly National Monument
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
Chiricahua National Monument
Coronado National Memorial
Fort Bowie National Historic Site
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
Montezuma Castle National Monument
Navajo National Monument
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Saguaro National Park
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument
The National Parks Store
Tonto National Monument
Tumacácori National Historical Park
Tuzigoot National Monument
Walnut Canyon National Monument
Wupatki National Monument

California
Channel Islands National Park
Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site
John Muir National Historic Site
Mojave National Preserve
Pinnacles National Park
Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Colorado
Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
Curecanti National Recreation Area
Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site

Kansas
Brown v. Board of Education National Historical Park
Fort Larned National Historic Site
Fort Scott National Historic Site
Nicodemus National Historic Site

Montana & Wyoming
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument

Nevada
Great Basin National Park
Lake Mead National Recreation Area

New Mexico
Aztec Ruins National Monument
Bandelier National Monument
Capulin Volcano National Monument
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Chaco Culture National Historical Park
El Malpais National Monument
El Morro National Monument
Fort Union National Monument
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
Pecos National Historical Park
Petroglyph National Monument
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument
White Sands National Park

Oklahoma
Chickasaw National Recreation Area
Washita Battlefield National Historic Site

Texas
Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
Big Thicket National Preserve
Chamizal National Memorial
Fort Davis National Historic Site
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park
Padre Island National Seashore
Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Utah
Golden Spike National Historical Park
Timpanogos Cave National Monument

Trails
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail
Santa Fe National Historic Trail
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail

wnpa.org/discover-our-parks