

The 2018 UCLA La Kretz Center & Stunt Ranch Reserve

Call for Research Proposals

The *UCLA La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science* and the *UC Natural Reserve System (UC NRS) Stunt Ranch Santa Monica Mountains Reserve* are pleased to announce our annual call for student research proposals. We invite undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers in the fields of ecology, evolution, conservation, and environmental sciences to apply.

The La Kretz Center's core mission is to preserve California's biodiversity and ecosystems by supporting field and laboratory-based research that address underlying problems with direct management implications for conservation science. Although we do not limit the geographic scope or academic discipline of the work we fund, we are particularly interested in projects that are centered on (southern) California's environmental, ecological, and conservation problems and their solutions.

We also seek research proposals specifically taking place at the UC NRS Stunt Ranch Reserve. Stunt is a 310-acre property located in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains in the Malibu-Calabasas area (~ 25 miles from campus) adjacent to the Cold Creek Preserve. Although modest in size, Stunt Ranch offers opportunities for a wide variety of short and longer term research project in a protected, ecologically pristine site with options for overnight lodging. The dominant ecosystems on the Reserve are chaparral and riparian (Cold Creek flows through the Reserve, generally from December to June).

Stunt Ranch and the La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science work closely together to promote and sponsor conservation-relevant research across the region. To learn more about Stunt Ranch, including currently funded projects, please email Gary Bucciarelli (garyb@ucla.edu) or visit <http://stuntranch.ucnrs.org/>; to learn more about the La Kretz Center, email Brad Shaffer (Brad.Shaffer@ucla.edu) or visit <http://www.environment.ucla.edu/lakretz/>.

To apply for this funding opportunity, please prepare the following:

1) A research proposal that describes (i) the fundamental problem to be addressed, (ii) the proposed methods that will be used, (iii) the expected data/results, (iv) how those results will be disseminated and used to assist land managers, agencies, or others achieve conservation goals, and (v) a budget with justification (these should be a separate document and may include funding for mileage and modest stipends to hire undergraduate research assistants);

2) Your current CV;

3) A brief letter of recommendation from your thesis advisor explaining why this work is timely, how it contributes to conservation outcomes, and why the requested support is necessary;

4) Materials for the La Kretz Center's Website. This includes an image of yourself, an image related to your project, and a short bio and project description (each 100 words max). **Your application will be considered incomplete without this content.**

5) Previous awardees may apply for additional support but must include a description of work accomplished under their previous support (250 words max, separate document). **Failure to provide this update will render your application incomplete.**

The proposal should be concise, at no more than two pages, single-spaced, including figures and literature cited. Maximum budget is \$6,000. We anticipate funding projects ranging from \$500-\$6000.

All application materials, including letters of reference must be received by 11:55 PM on Tuesday, November 27, 2018. Applicants should merge their materials into a single PDF file and email it to lakretz@ioes.ucla.edu. Advisors should send their letters of support to the same address. Any questions, please contact Gary Bucciarelli (garyb@ucla.edu).