

# BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

## **APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

Boone and Crocket Club is proud to announce a new call for proposals for funding under its Conservation Grants Program. This Project Submission Guidelines package contains information to help you apply for funding from Boone and Crockett Club.

For further information contact Drs. Evelyn Merrill or Vernon Bleich, Co-chairs of the Conservation Grants Subcommittee, through the Club's headquarters located at: 250 Station Drive, Missoula, MT 59801-2753 (tel. 406-542-1888; email bcclub@boone-crockett.org).

#### 1. PURPOSE OF THE CONSERVATION FUNDING

Since 1948, the Boone and Crockett Club has been investing in research and career development through its Conservation Grants Program. Today, as then, conservation grants serve the dual purpose of developing new scientific information and seeding the early careers of aspiring wildlife professionals; it does this through modest grants (usually \$15,000 or less) toward selected research or graduate student projects. Typically, the grants are leveraged by additional resources that the researcher or graduate student and supervisor develop to support the overall program of study.

The Conservation Grants Program complements other Boone and Crockett Club programs, but remains unique in its wide solicitation of proposals from investigators at Universities with wildlife programs across the U.S. and Canada. The Boone and Crockett Club's Strategic Plan recognizes a 3-part goal for the program:

- Support the Club's mission to promote the guardianship and provident management of big game and associated wildlife in North America by funding research required by managers and policy-makers.
- Complement the Club's other research programs (Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Ranch, Boone and Crockett Professorships) by supporting the work of others at diverse locations across North America.
- Assist and encourage promising graduate students or other investigators who have chosen careers in the wildlife profession.

### 2. PROJECT PRIOIRTY FOR 2013

### 2013 Research Theme:

### Managing for big game habitat in the face of energy development

Sustaining habitat in the face of expanding energy development (wind, oil & gas, coal, solar, and nuclear) is one of the key challenges in managing for big game habitat across North America in the upcoming decades. Landscapes fragmented by open-pit mines, wind towers, well pads, pipelines, seismic and transmission lines, and roads can lead to direct (destruction or modification) and indirect (changes in behavior and ecological interactions) effects on big game that may have dramatic consequences locally, and cumulatively over large regions. As part of the Club's efforts to foster conservation of habitats on public and private lands, we are soliciting applications to support research that provides information for science-based management of big game habitat in the face of energy development. Because most past research on this topic has been reactive and designed to mitigate small-scale disturbances for meeting regulatory stipulations, preference will be given to studies funded by multiple partners and that are of sufficient duration and rigor that address: (1) consequences for individual fitness of animals or population consequences of modifying big game habitat, behavior, or community dynamics resulting from energy development; or (2) the best approaches to assess and or mitigate cumulative effects of energy development at large scales.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY: WHO CAN APPLY?

- Researchers, graduate students or their supervisors from North America may apply if they have a suitable project based in USA, Canada or Mexico.
- Priority is given to projects that demonstrate active collaborations in partner contributions and matched funding dollars.



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# 4. APPLICATION: HOW TO APPLY

Provide the following information in the application:

- **A.** Research proposal: Using the APPLICATION FORM provided, submit to the Boone and Crockett Club by the submission deadline a concisely written proposal providing the following sections:
  - Introduction and background. Clearly state the context of the problem, the objectives, questions and/or hypotheses being addressed and justify their significance in light of the Boone & Crockett Clubs' stated goals of their Strategic Plan and the annual research theme.
  - Study area. Identify the location and briefly describe the setting.
  - Study design. Clearly describe the approach of the project or the experimental design for a research project.
  - Methods. Describe the methods used to collect and analyze the information gathered providing sufficient detail to evaluate whether they are appropriate.
  - Collaborations and partnerships: Indicate collaborations and partners with the project indicating whether they are providing funding or in-kind support.
  - Budget. Itemize expected expenditures in the following categories: Salaries for students, technicians, and other professional; travel; supplies; capital equipment; contract services; and other. In column format, list the amount of funding in each category by amount requested from the Boone and Crockett Club, other secured sources, pending sources, and total budget. Indicate sources of funding.
  - Budget justification. Provide a brief description and justification of what the Boone and Crockett Club funding will be used for in the project and how the Boone and Crockett Club funding complements other sources of funding.
  - Citations
- **B.** <u>PI Qualifications.</u> Provide a short curriculum vitae of less than 6 pages for the principal investigator or graduate student supervisor including information demonstrating qualifications to carry out or direct the project.

Proposal format: The proposal should not to exceed 10 pages single-spaced (12-point Times Roman, 1-inch margins) not including budget and citations.

Non-Eligible Budget Items

- Administrative and overhead charges
- Profit-making activities, land acquisition or general fundraising
- Regular ongoing staff salary positions
- Travel to conferences and seminars unless part of a larger project supported or requested by the Club.

### **Application Submission Deadline: October 15, 2013**

Submit the application materials electronically to bcclub@boone-crockett.org or to:

Boone and Crockett Club Conservation Grants Program 250 Station Drive Missoula, MT 59801-2753 406-542-1888

All applications must be received by the Boone and Crockett Club by the submission deadline.



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#### 5. GRANT APPLICATION EVALUATION & DECISION PROCESS

Proposals are evaluated by the Conservation Grants Subcommittee consisting of Professional members of the Boone and Crockett Club. The members are asked to rank the proposal based on the following criteria.

- The proposal meets the guideline of being relevant to big game biology or management.
- The project addresses the current Boone and Crockett Club priority theme(s).
- The study addresses a significant biological, ecological, policy, or social science problem.
- The study has scientific merit by testing existing theory or assumptions or producing new knowledge.
- There is potential for widespread application of the results.
- The study design is appropriate to meet the study objectives or answer the stated questions.
- The study methods and proposed analyses are clear, well justified, and appropriate for obtaining the desired information.
- The project is feasible given the proposed budget and in consideration of funding listed from other partners.
- The applicant is well qualified to undertake the study.

### **6. EXPECTATIONS OF RECIPIENTS**

Successful applicants are expected to adhere to the following guidelines.

- Project activities normally occur between 1 January and 31 December.
- Successful applicants will be expected to follow the Boone and Crockett Club Cooperative Project Agreement and adhere to the payment and reporting schedule identified in the Agreement. Final payment to the researcher is held until receipt of a final report.
- Grants cannot be made retrospectively, that is for work completed prior to the current application year.
- The Club reserves the right to use portions of any and all reports from funded projects without payment or additional compensation.
- It is intended that recipients of grants publish their findings and acknowledge support provided by the Boone and Crockett Club.
- Grant recipients are expected to provide Boone and Crockett Club with digital copies of the Theses and publications stemming from projects supported by the Club. The Boone and Crockett Club intends to list the citations for these articles on their website and where appropriate provide a link to access the written documents.
- Applicants are responsible for ensuring they have the proper licenses and approvals required to carry out the project and have complied with all the requirements of their organization and local and national authorities.
- As a general rule, grant recipients are invited to prepare an article for publication in the Club's magazine, Fair Chase.