

Bristlecone Institute for Ecological Research

Offering educational research expeditions and support
for long-term studies in population biology



Our Mission and Motivation

We aspire to the **enduring conservation** of natural populations and their genetic resources. Lasting conservation rests on understanding the full interplay between populations, their genes, and the environment. We work to improve this understanding by supporting long-term, integrated research on natural populations and their environments.

Our mission is to raise public support for long-term population studies, by involving the public in research projects. We work with active researchers to develop **field courses** based on their long-term research projects. Each course provides an educational opportunity for the public, while producing valuable data on natural populations and their genetic diversity. Course fees provide a **perpetual source of support** for each study.

Broader Goals of the Institute

In addition to developing field courses that directly support independent research projects, the Institute is developing other ways to support long-term studies in population biology. We are currently working to

- identify historic population studies that should be reestablished
- provide researchers with tools for the analysis of long-term data
- increase opportunities for inner-city students to participate in research
- offer consultation on the design of long-term population monitoring, and
- encourage the integration of environmental and population studies.

*Find us at www.bristlecone.org, where you can join a **research expedition** and help us **achieve these goals***

Featured Expedition 2007: Pikas and Climate Change in the American West

Picture yourself high in the mountains of Montana, holding in your hands a tiny relative of the rabbit—a 'pika'. Pikas live here in jumbled rockpiles, where they seek shelter from weasels and weather. During the summer, pikas are easy to observe as they dash about gathering the flowers and grasses that will sustain them over winter. Pikas are in decline throughout the American West and in other parts of the world. Local extinctions have been more likely at lower elevations. Are pikas moving up-slope in response to global warming? Can they survive the changes ahead? The Pika Project is designed to answer these questions, by studying the survival of individuals in different 'microhabitats' throughout the West. In 2007, the Pika Project will involve research on pikas and pika habitats in key locations throughout the Rocky Mountains and in the Great Basin. Project leader Chris Ray, who holds a Ph.D. in population biology, has been studying pikas for almost 20 years. Over the years, she has welcomed over 60 participants in the project. The work is difficult—strictly for the adventurous—but the rewards are great. Here's the story of one happy camper: *"I have to tell you that the field season I spent with you was very influential. I really enjoyed it. You cemented my ideas of becoming a field ecologist and I haven't looked back once!"—Kim Ferree, now a professional biologist*



Yes! Please send *more* information on...

- ◇ Bristlecone Expeditions planned for 2007
- ◇ Volunteer opportunities within the Institute:
 - ◇ public outreach & fundraising
 - ◇ web site development & data management
 - ◇ research project development & peer review
 - ◇ scientific advisory board / board of directors
- ◇ Other _____

Name _____
Address _____
E-mail _____

Mail to: Bristlecone Institute for Ecological Research

200 Reindeer Dr
Ward, CO 80481
USA

or contact us at www.bristlecone.org