

## **Bristlecone Institute for Ecological Research**

200 Reindeer Dr, Ward, CO 80481, USA -- [www.bristlecone.org](http://www.bristlecone.org)

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### **Funding opportunities for Principal Investigators:**

Planning for the lasting conservation of a species or ecosystem requires substantial information about how populations and their genes will respond to future environments. The best information comes from long-term studies of trends in populations, their genes, and their environments. Such comprehensive studies can address questions about the nature and frequency of environmental impacts on a population, and a population's response to these impacts. Answers to these questions are critical for evaluating and improving the theories on which conservation decisions are based.

Unfortunately, such comprehensive population studies are rare. Long-term research on natural populations requires more planning and funding than most researchers can muster. Also, there is a natural trade-off between the intensity of a study and its duration. The result is that long-term studies often are too narrow in scope to provide answers to the most important questions in conservation biology. Our mission is to solve this problem. The **Bristlecone Institute provides support for long-term population research by inviting public participation**. We connect adventurous people with adventures in research.

Here's how it works. First, we identify research projects that meet our rigorous criteria for study design, duration, and potential to contribute to conservation science. Next, we work with project leaders to develop field courses based on these research projects. Our peer-reviewed courses combine education with real fieldwork. Every course is offered at least once a year, at a time and place appropriate for data collection. Course participants collect data for the project, and course fees fund the fieldwork.

**We don't offer direct grants.** Rather, we connect you with people who are excited about donating their time and money to participate in your research. The fees paid by these participants cover a) food, lodging, transportation and insurance for participants and researchers in the field, b) itemized research expenses related to specified research activities, and c) organization costs incurred by the Institute. We keep Institute costs low by supporting only those research projects with a good cost-benefit ratio.

Your research may qualify for support if it can be structured to meet the following guidelines. Your project must be located within the US, and must include:

- long-term research that integrates data on both a population and its environment;
- a field component that can be supported indefinitely through participant fees;
- a protocol, pace, location and living arrangements that will attract select participants;
- an investigator who's happy to teach the public; and
- a species and habitat(s) that will be accessible for the foreseeable future.

If you believe your research project meets our criteria for support, please contact the Director by email at [Chris.Ray@colorado.edu](mailto:Chris.Ray@colorado.edu). Within your email, provide a brief description of your project, including information relevant to each criterion above.