

2026 Call for Proposals

Shipley-Skinner Conservation Science

Shipley-Skinner Reserve – Riverside County Endowment

Background

The Center for Conservation Biology (CCB) and the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) of the University of California at Riverside announce a Call for Proposals for Graduate Students and Postdocs desiring to perform research on the Shipley-Skinner Reserve in Riverside County or in lands broadly adjacent to the reserve. In 1991, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) of Southern California initiated a management plan to recognize and govern habitat values on lands acquired to mitigate the projected impacts of MWD's water development projects in Western Riverside County. Asked to provide research in habitat protection, monitoring, and restoration, CNAS instituted this call to address these issues in the region. In 2001, the area of research expanded to other reserves in the county as the County of Riverside established an endowment to the CCB for the study of conservation issues affecting Riverside County.

Proposals Scope

Proposed research can include the monitoring of the status and dynamics of landscapes, ecosystems, or species of conservation concern. Both applications and theoretically oriented research is encouraged. Research activities may include experimental, observational, or modeling approaches. Any regional species or ecosystem spanning to wildland to urban interface in Riverside County, or directly affecting Riverside County is acceptable. Project duration is expected to be of one year; July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals are limited to three pages in length (Minimum 11 pt font, single spaced, 3 page limit excludes cited references and budget). A proposal includes the following information:

- PI name, name, title, total budget requested
- Justification and Rationale - a brief statement on the need for the research
- Research Plan - including plans for data collection, analysis, and interpretation

Not included in the three pages maximum but required on separate pages:

- References
- Budget and Budget Narrative - provide details regarding the use of funds for each line item of the budget. These can include graduate student summer or up to one quarter stipends and benefits. The budget should reflect the costs needed to conduct the proposed research during the project duration. Indirect costs will not be funded. Proposals should not exceed \$28,000.
- Data management plan

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated by UCR faculty based on their scientific merit and their potential to address regional conservation problems that span the urban to wildland continuum. Preference will be given to graduate student research and projects that can provide critical results for future extramural support.

Final Report

A final report will be required at the end of the project period. This report must include specific recommendations for maintenance and enhancement of the habitat and/or species or regional conservation issues. All data and other products must be submitted to the CCB or publicly available repository. The report will be posted on the CCB website (ccb.ucr.edu). The plan for the use of the products for future extramural funding should be described. Previous reports may be used in consideration of funding.

Proposal Submission

Responses to this Call must be submitted before 5:00 p.m (PDT) on **15 May 2026**. Award announcements are planned for 1 June 2026.

Send as a single pdf to: caroline.benitez@ucr.edu

Center for Conservation Biology

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N.B. – We will host a proposal workshop to help answer questions and discuss framing proposals!