2009-2010-2011
Graduate Assistantship
In Wilderness Research
University of Idaho

Objective: To facilitate graduate student research in the Frank Church Wilderness using the University of Idaho's Taylor Wilderness Research Station as research focus area.

The DeVlieg Foundation's Mission is to aid and promote educational programs and experiences with a focus on conservation of natural resources, especially those that encourage respect and stewardship of the earth. The DeVlieg Foundation has a strong interest in helping students prepare for a career in natural resources, research and management. The Foundation is particularly interested in providing an opportunity for students to perform research in a wilderness setting such as the Salmon River Mountains ecosystem of Idaho.

The DeVlieg Foundation is a solid supporter of the University of Idaho's Taylor Wilderness Research Station and its research programs. An additional objective of this program would be to enhance graduate research opportunities and strengthen the Taylor Wilderness Research Station programs.

Amount: $19,000 per year for up to 3 years for one graduate student pursuing a graduate degree, preferably PhD degree, at the University of Idaho, as per the "Objective and Criteria" listed in this application. Request to extend to a 4th year of support will be considered upon application to and acceptance from the proposal committee during the 3rd year of research. These DeVlieg Foundation funds will provide a stipend, tuition fees, and/or research equipment.

An additional $1,000 will added yearly to the stipend to cover facility operational charges for living expenses at Taylor Wilderness Research Station. Any additional support required for the research funding, equipment, travel expenses, not covered by this stipend, is to be obtained from other sources.

Total support each year: $20,000.
Total support of Assistantship: $60,000 (3 years) to possible $80,000 (4 years)

Timing: Funds will be available upon project approval on a yearly distribution schedule as set by faculty. Applications can be submitted up to July 1, 2009. If the committee does not successfully choose a student and project offering, they hold the right to extend the applications deadline and open to additional proposals.

Who can apply: **Faculty on behalf of a student or perspective student at the University of Idaho pursuing a graduate degree, preferably PhD.**

Selection criteria:

Research will be conducted from the University of Idaho's Taylor Wilderness Research Station. Priority will be given to research proposals with the following topic areas:

- Wilderness dependent or wilderness related topics
- Topics with resource management implications for Idaho
- A topic which builds on one of the two long-term research areas which Taylor Ranch Field Station is recognized for:
  1) Carnivore ecology and predator – prey relationships
  2) Stream ecology
- A project in the Big Creek watershed which contributes to understanding of key processes and linkages in the Salmon River Mountains Ecosystem.
- Topics relevant to the region; such as fire ecology, land-water connections, effects of climate change, biology of sensitive species, and invasion biology.
- Topics which are part of an interdisciplinary research program at Taylor Wilderness Research Station, for example:
  1) University of Idaho and Idaho State University collaboration
  2) University and government agency collaboration.

Evaluation of proposal:

The selection committee will evaluate the proposals using the following criteria:

- Scientific merit as judged by the originality, reasonableness, and potential significance of the project's goals as per the selection criteria.
- Likelihood of success at meeting the scientific objectives and communicating project results to appropriate audiences.
- Potential for compounded benefits, such as student career advancement and other forms of resource development, support for and impact on community and governmental organizations and proposals for new initiatives that may attract additional funding.
- Reasonableness of the budget request.
- Additional funding availability from other sources to secure success of project.
- Relationship to The DeVlieg Foundation goals of fostering research in a wilderness setting and focus on Natural Resource Conservation.

Selection committee:

A Selection Committee will consist of: (three) University faculty with at least (one) from CNR, (one) manager/scientist from Taylor Wilderness Research Station and (one) DeVlieg Foundation board member.

Application Procedure:

Applications from faculty should be submitted to the selection committee and include:

- A cover page with project title, applicant's name, affiliation, address, phone number, and email address
- A 250 word abstract of the proposed project
- A 3-5 page description of the project including objectives, justification, methods, expected results, and benefits of research to understanding the Salmon River Mountains ecosystem and society at large.
- Budget page showing project projection and include description of matching funds or other support obtained for the project.
- Resume of the principal investigator's (or student's) qualifications including education, work experience, research experience, and publications (2 pages).
- Applications should be mailed or delivered to:

DeVlieg - Taylor Wilderness Research Station
Graduate Research Assistantship
Dean's Office
College of Natural Resources
University of Idaho
Moscow, ID 83844-1142
Phone: 208-885-2397
Email: cnr@uidaho.edu

Responsibilities of graduate student:

The DeVlieg Foundation is an interested party to the research process and eventual final thesis. Communication with all parties will help insure the success of this research process. The graduate student will be responsible for the following:

- Submit an Annual Progress Report, including data summaries to the DeVlieg Foundation by February each year.
- Give informal power point/presentation of research at the DeVlieg Foundation annual board meetings in September. The student will be assisted financially to attend the board meetings.
- Maintain informal research updates through correspondence.
- Provide opportunity for DeVlieg Foundation board members to visit research site.
- Upon completion, of the program submit a copy of the completed thesis and any publications to the DeVlieg Foundation.

Questions or Inquiries:
Any questions or inquiries could be addressed to:

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NOTE: The DeVlieg Foundation reserves the right to amend the requirements, qualifications and evaluation procedures for the DeVlieg/Taylor Ranch Graduate Research Assistantship. Any changes will be coordinated with the University of Idaho in an agreeable manner.

March 30, 2009