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|  | Western Cave Conservancy  P.O. Box 230, Newcastle, California 95658 |

**Conservation Grants**

# Purpose

WCC Conservation Grants are intended to be used to maintain and conserve cave and/or karst features in the western USA, or to provide support for related scientific research efforts related to cave conservation in the western USA.

# Funding

Funds will be allocated annually by the Board of Directors. Individual grants should not exceed $1000. Upon approval of a grant funds will be dispersed when proof of matching funds are provided. The number of grants awards will be contingent on allocated funds and qualified applications.

# Timeline

Grants will be evaluated on at least a quarterly basis and a response provided within 30 days.

# Grant Guidelines

* Projects must further cave conservation or scientific research (see Evaluation Criteria). Objectives should be clear and attainable within the timeline of the project.
* Grants generally require a minimum of 50% funding match from external sources. (This requirement may be waived in exceptional cases, at the discretion of the committee.)
* Project directors are expected to have experience related to the project/research.
* Grants are available to all applicants that meet the rubric (listed below), but projects supported by local (West Coast) caving groups or universities will generally be given priority.
* WCC Conservation Grants are not intended to be used to provide funding for general-purpose caving gear (e.g. helmets, lights, vertical gear). If durable equipment is purchased (ex. tools with a life beyond the project duration), the proposal must speak to the disposition of the equipment at the conclusion of the project.
* Project should generally be completed within 1 year of funding. (Exceptions will be granted at the committee’s discretion.) All proposals should include estimates of a completion timeframe.
* A final report is expected within 60 days of project completion. These reports should generally include:
  + A description of the project
  + The techniques or methods used
  + Who was involved
  + Where the work was done (with care to avoid disclosing sensitive locations)
  + A description of the results
  + Illustrations (photos, graphs, maps) as appropriate
  + Acknowledgement of all matching donors to the project

The report may be used to educate WCC members about the work they are helping fund, and should generally be targeted to a layperson audience.

# Evaluation Criteria

The following rubric will be used by WCC to evaluate the grant, with each criterion evaluated on a “Yes/No” basis:

* Is the project beneficial to conservation goals (e.g. cave restoration, habitat preservation) or does it have a valid scientific purpose (e.g. expansion of scientific knowledge)?
* Is the amount requested appropriate for the project or research (attach expense detail or budget if needed)?
* Do the applicants / researchers have appropriate qualifications for the work?
* Are the objective(s) clear and attainable?
* Are the methods that will be used to meet the project objectives clearly stated?
* Is the grant likely to meet the stated purpose?

# WCC Conservation Grant Application

Complete the form below and submit electronically to: [grants@westerncaves.org](mailto:grants@westerncaves.org)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Title |  | | | | |
| Applicant Name |  | | NSS# (if any) | |  |
| Grotto or Other Affiliation (if any) |  | | Date: | |  |
| Requested Funds |  | Matching Funds (amount and source) | |  | |
| Project Start Date |  | Project Completion Date | |  | |
| Project Objectives |  | | | | |
| Project Description |  | | | | |

(Attach applicant CV/Résumés if appropriate.)