

**Rocky Mountain Conservancy & Rocky Mountain National Park
Continental Divide Research Learning Center
Call for Bailey Fellowship Research Proposals**

Due: 16 February 2026

Are you a graduate student that wants to conduct a research project in Rocky Mountain National Park?

Purpose

The Rocky Mountain Conservancy (RMC) and Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) Continental Divide Research Learning Center (CDRLC) are issuing a request for proposals for the 2026 Bailey Fellowship. The Bailey Research Fellowship is an endowed program of the Rocky Mountain Conservancy that is funded by the Leslie Fidel Bailey Charitable Trust. It is designed to encourage highly qualified graduate students to apply their talents to conducting research in the national parks. It is also intended to convey the importance of communicating park research to the public.

Areas of research can include wildlife management, vegetation and riparian studies, fire ecology, cultural sciences, archeology, and historic structures preservation, as well as topics in botany, zoology, geology, history, and ecology. These projects should aim to promote the informed decision making and adaptive management of RMNP or the education of staff to promote professional development and growth.

To qualify for the fellowship, the applicant must be currently enrolled in a graduate level program at an accredited college or university, show excellence in research, have a career interest in working with and in public open spaces, exhibit the ability to communicate effectively to general and public audiences, and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the purpose of the RMNP Bailey Research Fellowship and National Park Service by sharing knowledge, skill, and enthusiasm.

Fellowship Requirements

- A ~45-minute public presentation for a general audience, scheduled by RMC and given during the fellowship. This can be an introduction to the research question and methods with preliminary results and does not need to include final data analysis.
- A 15–30-minute presentation for RMNP, coordinated by the CDRLC.
- A presentation (poster or talk) at a professional conference within 2 years of completing the fellowship. \$1000 reimbursement available to support this requirement.
- A work representative of the fellowship, e.g. a peer-reviewed journal article or paper, thesis, dissertation chapter, white paper, journalistic article or feature, book chapter or book, etc. Information from the scholarly work may be used in exhibits and for educational purposes by RMNP and RMC for their products or programs.
- Research must be conducted under an approved RMNP research permit. Any data and associated materials collected during the project must be provided.

Fellowship Benefits

- Park housing for one person
- Living expense stipend of \$12,000, paid in weekly \$1,000 disbursements, with the final disbursement paid once all requirements are complete to the satisfaction of RMC and RMNP.
- Reimbursement (not to exceed \$1000) for presenting at a professional conference within 2 years of completing the fellowship.
- Reimbursement (not to exceed \$1000) for supplies and materials necessary to conduct research.
- An honorarium equaling \$1,000 paid after completion of the presentation for RMC.

Proposal Submission and Review Process

Please submit application and reference letters of support via email at ROMO_research@nps.gov with the subject '2026 Bailey Fellowship Application'.

Applications will be accepted beginning on January 5, 2026, and review of applications will begin on February 17, 2026.

Format for Fellowship Application: Research proposal applications should include the following sections:

- 1) Cover letter
- 2) Applicant Information
 - a) Fellowship eligibility
 - b) Experience working in the mountains or mountainous terrain
- 3) Overview
 - a) Title of research proposal
 - b) Dates of proposed work
 - c) Statement of issue
 - d) Scope of study
 - e) Intended use of results
- 4) Objectives/Hypotheses to be tested
- 5) Methods
 - a) Description of the study area
 - b) Procedures
 - c) Collections
 - d) Analysis
- 6) Products
- 7) Resume or CV

Each applicant should also provide 3 letters of support, submitted by references.

Projects will be reviewed and ranked by a panel including both CDRLC and RMC staff. The panel may follow up with additional questions during the evaluation period.

More information can be found at the Rocky Mountain Conservancy website, at [Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Bailey Research Fellowship](#)

Examples of previously funded projects:

- 2025: How do groundwater contributions to streamflow vary seasonally and spatially across ROMO streams?
- 2024: Search and Rescue and the Epidemiology of At-Risk Populations in RMNP
- 2023: Evaluation of White-tailed Ptarmigan Habitat Selection in Colorado
- 2022: Quantifying variation in disease susceptibility among boreal toad populations
- 2021: Elevational occupancy between two pika subspecies
- 2019: The role of plant physiological thresholds and resource use strategies in riparian ecosystem recovery