



Pilot Project Grants

Fall, 2023

Overview

Nature and Human Health-UT was established in 2020 to provide an arena in which people from diverse sectors of society can explore and share the many positive interactions between nature and human health.

Our mission is to articulate and foster critical links between nature and human health by providing a collaborative arena in which representatives of diverse societal sectors can equitably engage, share ideas, formulate actions, and implement solutions.

Our vision is that all Utahns understand the critical links between people and nature, and help to ensure those critical links are accessible to everyone in our community.

An anonymous donor and the [REI Cooperative Action Fund](#) have provided funds to support pilot projects that relate to our mission and vision. All projects' budgets should range between \$1,000-\$11,000. Budgets should reflect actual needs of the proposed project.

Eligibility

Individuals, collaborating groups, non-profit organizations, public and private educational organizations, federal, state, local agencies and tribal governments are encouraged to apply. No match is required.

General Criteria

Pilot Grant proposals must: focus on a topic that draws upon multiple disciplines or approaches that address a pertinent question that concerns the relationships between nature and human health, be cost-effective; lead to future work that extends or sustains the proposed activities; and addresses issues of access to nature and health among populations that are underserved with respect to nature access. Proposals will be accepted from any sector (e.g., community, academic, or commercial institutions), and may be for projects that are based anywhere in the State of Utah. Preference will be given to projects that involve (or draw together) two or more disciplines (e.g., medicine and natural history); or societal sectors (outdoor recreation and ecosystem health).

Specific Criteria for projects:

- Has impact, rigor, and potential for contribution
- Meets objectives of [NHH-UT mission statement](#)
- Advances knowledge of human/nature interactions
- Centers populations that are underserved or underrepresented with respect to nature engagement
- Leads to a larger or more extended project or study
- Events/program occurs in Utah
- Budget items are appropriate and correctly calculated
- Personnel have demonstrated capacity and access to resources/facilities to fulfill the objectives of the proposal
- Project personnel represent multiple disciplines and societal sectors

PROPOSAL: (due December 15, 2023, award announcement on January 31, 2024). The proposal should be no more than 9 pages and should include the following: In addition to the text (below), two letters of support from community or academic collaborators on the project should be included. Figures are included in the page limit, but references are not. Page limits are calculated based on Times New Roman, 11-point, single spaced,

1. Title Page:

- Title
- Project Lead: Name, affiliation, email address
- Other participants: Names, affiliations, email addresses
- Focus of project (50-200 words)
- Geographical location/habitat
- Project dates: beginning and ending (mm/dd/yyyy)
- Amount of funding requested

Abstract: 1 paragraph (up to 300 words)

2. Background & Rationale (Max.2 pages). Describe the: project's background (cite literature, if appropriate); goals and objectives. Address the topics below:

- What is the significance of the project as related to nature and human health.
- How does the project contribute to other efforts in this area?
- Who are the partners/collaborators and what do they provide?
- If applicable, describe your previous experience working with this topic.
- How success will be determined and/or documented?
- What are the long-term goals and activities that this project will lead to in the future?
How will you share the outcomes of the project with stakeholders and the community?
- How will the ultimate project/program be sustainable?

3. Methods (Max.1 page).

For research projects, describe:

Study area (include map, if appropriate)

- Study design & target audience
- Sampling methods
- Data analysis
- Evaluation
- Outcome products
- Timeline

For community projects or programs, describe:

- Project area (include map, if appropriate)
- Objectives
- Detailed project description and target audience, with action items for each objective
- Detailed implementation plan
- Timeline

4. Implications (Max.1 page): Describe the contribution and implications of the proposed project. Provide details of who will benefit from the project, or how the results could be applied to practice. If appropriate, describe results of a previous or related projects. Mention strategies that have led you to success, key partners, and learned experiences that

would likely increase the success of your project.

5. *Project Impact Assessment (Max. 1 page)*: Describe how the project's team will assess the project progress, success, and challenges.
6. *Budget and Justification (Max. 2 pages)*: List items separately and include calculations and justification/explanations. This should include, but not limited to mileage numbers, hourly rates for staff time, roles & responsibilities of team members. We do not provide funds for indirect costs.

Example Budget

Item	Cost
Mileage to and from study site (500 miles at \$0.545/mile)	\$175
Staff time conducting pointcount surveys (25 hours at \$20/hour)	\$500
GPS Unit	\$250
Total	\$925

Reporting

Grantees must submit an interim project report (8 pages max) and a final report (15 pages max) no more than three months after completion of the project. The interim and final written reports will include: 1) whether and how goals were accomplished, 2) obstacles encountered, lessons learned, and/or shifting strategies, 3) project successes, and 4) how money was used during the project. Grantees must also provide an oral presentation or poster on the goals, implementation, evaluation outcomes, and other results at a NHH-UT conference (TBD Fall 2025), which will be open to the public.

Funding Logistics:

NHH-UT will disburse 70% of the funds when the proposal is accepted; the remaining 30% will be disbursed upon submission and approval of the final report, including presentation at the NHH-UT conference.

Submission Information

Proposals must be submitted as a single PDF or Word document by December 15, 2023 via email to: Myra Gerst (myra.gerst@utah.edu).

Template for Letters of Support:

Letters of support should use the following template, be placed on the institutional letterhead of the supporting group, and be submitted with the full proposal.

Date
Dear Pilot Proposal Review Committee:
If the proposal submitted by [<i>head submitter's name</i>] entitled “[<i>title of pilot grant proposal</i>]” is selected for funding by NHH-UT, it is my intent to collaborate and/or commit resources as detailed in the description of the proposal.
Specifically, {I/our group} will provide the following in support of the proposed research (state here, e.g., access to datasets; access to trails for field work, editorial support for publications, assistance with obtaining Institutional Review Board approval).
Sincerely,
[<i>submitter's name, affiliation and signature</i>]