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Bolsa Chica Land Trust
Preserving All of Bolsa Chica

RESEARCH PROGRAM

AT THE BOLSA CHICA ECOLOGICAL RESERVE WITH THE BOLSA CHICA LAND TRUST

The Bolsa Chica Land Trust (BCLT) invites academic researchers to explore the many possibilities for investigative studies at the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve.



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The Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve in Huntington Beach, CA is an approximately 1,400-acre coastal estuary managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Habitats include saltwater bays, mudflats, salt marsh, coastal dunes, seabird nesting islands, riparian, freshwater marsh, coastal sage scrub, and grassland. The Reserve provides critical habitat for more than 230 species of birds and 23 listed species. Our public trails are used by approximately 100,000 visitors each year, which includes school children and volunteers who frequently visit the Reserve to learn and help restore the site.

Estuaries along the California coastline are constantly being threatened by human impacts. More than 90% of the state's historic wetlands are gone. Research is needed to document Bolsa Chica's flora and fauna and to elucidate relationships between various species and their habitats. As global warming threatens the world's coastlines, studies are needed to gather baseline data and later to document changes. BCLT often conducts interventions in the Reserve to protect and restore the environment, and these interventions would benefit from outcome studies. BCLT also conducts educational and volunteer programs that would lend themselves to qualitative research examining educational outcomes.

This research opportunity includes funding from BCLT in limited amounts for some study expenses. A research proposal is required, with a request for funding listed in the budget description. A detailed description of the research site, possible topics of study, and application materials can be found on the BCLT website at www.BCLandTrust.org/research.

All research proposals will be blind peer-reviewed, and those accepted will be sent to CDFW for final approval. We anticipate this process to take approximately two months but may depend on CDFW's schedule. Due to the nature of the site, limitations and restrictions may be placed on projects as proposed.

Bolsa Chica has much to offer, and we have much to learn so that we can better care for the Reserve in the future. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in sending us a proposal, please contact BCLT's Research Coordinator Erin Chin at Erin@BCLandTrust.org.

Kim Kolpin
Executive Director