

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – CENTER FOR ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH & EDUCATION

ISU's Center for Ecological Research & Education (CERE) is soliciting proposals to support #1) graduate student research and #2) synergistic activities such as workshops, seminars, or educational efforts. Proposals in category #1 should be submitted by graduate students, and funds may be used for graduate or undergraduate student summer salary, and research expenses (including travel). Proposals in category #2 can be submitted by ISU faculty, staff or students to cover expenses required for activities, including, but not limited to, student assistant salary, participant travel, meeting costs, or educational materials and supplies. Although available funds may be less than in past years, the expectation is that multiple awards will be made, and each will be less than \$5000. Funds should be expended before December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

*Scope of proposals* - Consistent with the mission of the CERE, proposals should support research and education in the earth, life, environmental social sciences or environmentally-related engineering or information sciences. Proposals are encouraged that include collaborations across disciplines to address complex environmental problems, and/or that involve partnerships and co-production efforts with stakeholder or rightsholder groups, agencies, or communities.

*Criteria* - Graduate student research proposals will be evaluated with respect to: a) evidence of originality, creativity, and broader significance of the proposed activities, b) feasibility of proposed work, including availability of adequate facilities and appropriateness of the budget, c) alignment with the scope for proposals outlined above, and d) clarity of the proposal (language should be directed to an educated lay audience). Proposals in category #2 will also be evaluated for their potential to: a) positively influence ISU's culture of cross-disciplinary research and education, and/or b) create or sustain partnerships that engage ISU scientists with stakeholder groups and our communities to co-produce understanding and address complex problems. Priority consideration will be given to those who have not previously received CERE funding support, though prior support will not disqualify a proposal. Final reports associated with prior CERE grant support from a given applicant need to have been submitted for students or faculty members to be eligible. Recipients are required to acknowledge CERE in publications/presentations resulting from CERE-supported work and to notify CERE of these products.

*To apply* - Applicants should submit a brief proposal that includes a short statement of the background/justification, objectives and expected outcomes (no more than 2-pages), as well as a budget and justification (no more than 1 page). The budget justification should describe the need for support as well as how funds would be used. Graduate students must also submit one letter of support from their faculty advisor as a part of their application package; the letter should be included with the student proposal and not sent separately by the faculty member. These materials should be submitted to CERE Director Dr. Colden Baxter ([coldenbaxter@isu.edu](mailto:coldenbaxter@isu.edu), 208-251-5980). **The deadline for priority consideration is Friday, March 20th, 2026.** Proposals will be reviewed by the CERE board. Contact Dr. Baxter or any of the members of this board with questions: Drs. Sarah Godsey ([godsey@isu.edu](mailto:godsey@isu.edu)), Katrina Running ([trinarunning@isu.edu](mailto:trinarunning@isu.edu)), Josh Grinath ([joshuagrath@isu.edu](mailto:joshuagrath@isu.edu)), and Jennifer Cornell ([jennifer.cornell@deq.idaho.gov](mailto:jennifer.cornell@deq.idaho.gov)).