

Study Proposal Guidelines for Research in California State Parks

Your study proposal is an integral part of your application for a scientific research and collecting permit within the California State Park System. When developing your study proposal, please provide sufficient detail so that a professional scientist, who may not be a specialist in your particular field, can understand exactly what you plan to do. Your proposal will be carefully evaluated to assess its anticipated merits (e.g., benefits to the State Park System, application to resource management, contributions to scientific knowledge) as well as its potential impacts on park resources, operations, and visitors.

A complete study proposal will include the components outlined below:

- I. **Project Title**
- II. **Principal Investigator.** Name, address, phone number, email address, and affiliation of PI (as listed on DPR 65 application).
- III. **Abstract**
- IV. **Introduction.** Describe the study rationale and significance. Include a summary of relevant literature and specific hypotheses to be tested and/or study objectives.
- V. **Methods**
 - A. **Study Area.** Describe the geographic area(s) in which the research will take place. Use California State Park unit name(s) and place names. Attach maps or geographic coordinates for each distinct study location. GIS files in standard formats may also be accepted. For planning purposes, [California State Park boundary layers](#) are available online, as is a map of [California State Park units and districts](#).
 - B. **Procedures.** Describe your study design, field and laboratory methods or protocols, and planned analysis, including any statistical techniques or models.
 - C. **Collections.** For proposals involving collections of specimens, provide details on the type, size, quantity, and condition to be taken and explain why collection is necessary. Describe the disposition of specimens collected. For specimens that will be curated, indicate where they will be held.

- D. **Other State or Federal Permits.** Provide evidence of other applicable state and/or federal permits required for your proposed research in California State Parks.
- E. **Soil Disturbance.** For proposals involving soil disturbance (e.g., placement of stakes, collection of soil cores), provide details on the type, location, area, depth, number, and distribution of any such activities. Even minor soil-disturbing activities usually require additional review by a California State Parks archaeologist. To facilitate review and reduce processing time required for your permit, please identify each ground disturbance area on a USGS 7.5-minute topographic map.
- VI. **Literature Cited**
- VII. **Schedule.** Provide overall project start and end dates. Specify dates of field investigations, laboratory study, and report completion.
- VIII. **Budget (optional).** Describe your project's budget and identify any expected funding sources. Providing this information is voluntary; it will be used to help track research investments in California State Parks.
- IX. **Products.** Describe anticipated products resulting from this study, such as reports, publications, brochures, GIS layers, web tools, videos, etc., and how study results will be disseminated. Copies of datasets and data products must be provided directly to California State Parks and/or made available through a public database or website.
- X. **Anticipated Benefits to the State Park System.** Identify any anticipated benefits to the California State Park System that may result from your proposed research.