

THE BRITTON FUND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 2025-2026 funding

The Britton Fund supports research and education projects of interest and value to members of the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA) and tree care professionals worldwide. WCISA member donations, industry sponsors, The Britton Fund bicycle ride and the annual auction support research and educational grants. Britton Fund grants support qualified projects up to **\$30,000**. Britton Fund grants provide funding for preliminary studies, matching funds, or planning efforts for larger studies. Small grant requests are encouraged. We suggest investigators seek matching funds and collaborate with industry leaders. The Britton Fund pays a limited amount for administrative costs of grant processing.

Current issues with tree health, establishment and sustainability in states served by the Western Chapter (CA, HI, NV, AZ) include but are not limited to the following challenges:

- Tree establishment, as affected by cultural practices in nurseries. Examples: structural pruning practices, container root pruning systems, and other methods of developing strong young stock.
- Spread, detection or control of endemic and/or exotic pests/pathogens. Examples: invasive boring insects, understanding emerging disorders such as Deodar Cedar decline, pests and diseases of Arbutus, Madrone, and other high value woody landscape trees.
- Studies of urban tree diversity, survival, and health as the climate continues to warm. Examples: high night temperatures in urban areas; water quality (salinity), water quantity, and application methodology; air quality responses; conversion of standard landscapes adjacent to urban trees to water-conserving landscapes; drought tolerance/adaptability, species pruning requirements in response to storms and climate change; and other effects of climate change on landscape trees.
- Research that documents: the impacts of urban trees on wildlife diversity, support of the urban ecosystem, or ecosystem services in urban forests are encouraged.
- Research that supports trees for a warming climate with minimal inputs (water, pruning, etc.)
- The impact of urban and wildfires on landscape trees. Studies documenting tree recovery from fire injury and the impact of fires on reforestation of communities

Successful proposals shall produce a report or publication, valuable to professionals in arboriculture, which becomes available to WCISA members through The Britton Fund and/or the WCISA Chapter's web sites or publication (Western Arborist). Qualified applicants need not be a member of the WCISA; however, the applicant must have superior knowledge in the subject areas pertaining to their proposal and demonstrated ability to publish their results in peer-reviewed journals as well as in the Western Arborist magazine. Proposed research must be scientifically sound, replicable and of a caliber for peer review and publication in technical journals such as the Journal of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry, Urban Forestry and Urban Greening, or the J. of Environmental Horticulture etc. Grant recipients are encouraged to share their results at regional and annual meetings of the WCISA.

Proposal Elements:

Proposals shall include the following sections:

I. Title and a summary or introduction stating the problem to be investigated and its relevance to arborists, especially those in the states served by the Western Chapter. A review of relevant literature with a bibliography is required.

II. Project or Research/Experiment description. Research project proposals shall include the experimental design; the methods used in the research and the analytical/statistical procedures proposed to evaluate the results.



III. A section detailing the research outputs such as presentations at meetings, web pages, webinars, blogs, and articles (peer-reviewed and popular) that will be developed as a result of the research.
IV. A detailed budget that explains or proposes how funding will be utilized including: supplies, equipment, dates, vendors, and labor amounts, and any administrative costs. The Britton Fund does not pay salaries of the principal investigator.

Timeline:

Jan. 15, 2026— Proposals due

Week of Feb.2, 2026 – Research Advisory Committee meets to review proposals

Week of Mar.2, 2026 – Grant decision letters mailed

Week of April 1, 2026– Funding awards to grant recipients

Project awards over multiple years and extensions are possible according as per approval by the Board of Directors.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Scientific soundness
- Proposal has a good literature search to support the project and document the necessity of the work
- Relevance to the tree care industry and WCISA membership
- Appropriateness of the project approach or methods
- Demonstration of applicant's qualifications
- Feasibility of project completion according to the time line as described
- Potential for the budget to fund the project and outputs
- Clarity, organization, and quality of the written proposal
- A clear plan for deliverables, such as publications, lectures, etc.
- Likelihood of timely completion of the research

General Information about The Britton Fund's research goals, funding criteria, application instructions, and contact information are available at <http://www.thebrittonfund.org/research-proposal-guidelines/>
Proposals are evaluated by the Research Committee under the direction and approval of The Britton Fund Board of Directors.

Other requirements:

A curriculum vitae for each member of the research team

A list of current, relevant publications

Organizational affiliation and title of each investigator

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