

## GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH WITHIN BAXTER STATE PARK

### CRITERIA FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Baxter State Park was donated to the people of the State of Maine by Governor Percival Baxter for the dual purposes of maintaining a portion of Maine's forest as forever wild and to provide primitive recreational opportunities to the people of Maine. The goals and objectives of the Baxter State Park Authority and park staff, therefore, are to protect, preserve and maintain the park for those purposes.

As a set of unique ecosystems, the park provides valuable opportunities for scientific research and study. The Baxter State Park Authority welcomes scientific research that will assist it in understanding the park's natural and cultural systems in order to preserve, protect and maintain the park, and may also provide a basis for comparison with other natural systems.

The essential questions the Research Committee will be asking when considering a research proposal is "How will this research further our understanding of the park and our efforts to protect and preserve this area for future generations?" This, and Governor Baxter's guidance, forms the foundation for the following criteria used to evaluate proposals:

1. *Benefit to the Park.* Will this research further our understanding of the park and benefit management efforts?
2. *Specificity.* Is this research specific to Baxter State Park, or can it be performed elsewhere?
3. *Impact.* Does this research involve collecting specimens? Will there be an effect on resources or visitor experiences?

For any research proposal involving collecting, the applicant must be able to show that collecting is essential to the project yet removal of the item will be benign. Considering this rationale, it should be evident that there will rarely be an instance where the value of collecting outweighs the value of preserving the park in its natural state. The applicant must also concurrently apply for a conditional use permit.

4. *Park Rules.* Will the researcher be requesting a waiver of certain Park Rules and Regulations (use of callback recordings, use of snowmobiles in staff only areas, etc.)?

The applicant must demonstrate that such activity is critical to the project and will have no negative impact to park resources. The applicant must also concurrently apply for a conditional use permit.

## THE PROPOSAL PROCESS

Those considering research in Baxter State Park must submit proposals by **February 1st** of each year. Proposals for multi-year projects need only to be submitted and reviewed once.

Research proposals are only accepted electronically. Contact the [Natural Resources Director](#) for an application form.

The research committee reviews the proposals and then meets on the **first Friday in March** of each year to discuss the proposals. Researchers or designees are invited to present their proposals at this meeting and to answer questions the Committee may have. Based on the initial presentation, review, and discussion, the Committee will make a recommendation to the Park Director whether or not to approve the proposed research. The Park Director makes the final decision based on the Committee's recommendation.

Proposals must include:

1. Name and title of Principal Investigator
2. Principal Investigator's affiliation and CV
3. Name and title of key project personnel and collaborators
4. Financial sponsor/s
5. Benefits to be derived from the research (specifically addressing questions 1 and 2 above)
6. Detailed description of research including:
  - a. Research Objectives
  - b. Proposed methods
  - c. Related research (within or outside BSP)
7. Time table for research and completion of project
8. Logistical considerations (crew size, access and accommodation needs etc.)
9. Area(s) of the park for the research
10. Researcher-assessed impact on the park
11. Expected products from research (e.g. scientific paper, web-based application, etc.)
12. Specifications on where the data and physical specimens will be archived and how they will be made accessible to Baxter State Park

*For projects affecting vertebrates, proposals must include evidence of review and approval by the applicant's governing Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.*

*For projects affecting visitors or staff, proposals must include evidence of review and approval by the applicant's governing Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects.*

## FUNDING

In general, the park will not fund scientific research from its annual budget. The park will consider funding research that will provide data and management recommendations for specific management issues within the park. If funding is requested, applications must be made two years in advance, and include a proposed budget including all other funding sources.

## FINAL REPORT

All researchers are required to submit a complete report to the Baxter State Park Natural Resource Director summarizing the results of that research project. This report must be submitted by **no later than one year from the last data collection or field session in the park**. Failure to comply with these requirements will result in denial of subsequent research proposals from both the individual researcher and the supporting institution. All reports will be kept on file for reference material at park headquarters.

Researchers are invited and encouraged to present their findings at the first March meeting of the Research Committee following the submission of their final report.

For multi-year projects, the researcher shall, at the end of each research season, submit a progress report with any preliminary findings by **December 31st of each year**. The researcher may be asked to present a progress report to the Research Committee at its March meeting the year following each research season.

Final reports must include:

1. Project title
2. Abstract
3. Methods
4. Discussion of findings
5. Recommendations or need for future research

Progress reports must include:

1. Project title
2. Stage of project (e.g. year 1 of 3)
3. Preliminary findings/observations
4. Synopsis of work expected to take place the following year and remaining until project completion.
5. Request to change methodology, timetable, etc. (if any)