



## Rob & Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation

### RESEARCH & EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 1400  
SINTON, TEXAS 78387  
PHONE: (361) 364-2643  
[www.welderwildlife.org](http://www.welderwildlife.org)

### **RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM**

The Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation's graduate research fellowship program was founded in 1956 and is designed to support exceptionally qualified students pursuing graduate degrees in varied research areas of wildlife conservation and management with emphasis on research that will inform decision making and on-the-ground implementation. The fellowship program also aims to train and develop effective conservation leaders for tomorrow. To date, the Fellowship program has supported over 350 graduate Fellows from over 65 academic institutions, which have produced nearly 1,600 publications.

#### **Fellowship Benefits**

- Fellows will receive monthly stipends
- Students working on or near the Refuge are provided dormitory apartment living quarters, utilities, office space, and field and laboratory facilities as are available.
- Opportunities to participate in targeted professional development workshops and training events

#### **Eligibility and Award Terms**

- Required GPA of 3.0/4.0
- Fellowships are directed to graduate study for M.S. and Ph.D. levels only.
- The Welder Foundation requires that each fellowship award be administered by an accredited U.S. based institution and that the proposed research has relevance to conservation in the U.S. However, U.S. citizenship is not required.
- Fellowship awards (stipends) for full-time students are \$1800.00 per month for M.S. candidates and \$2000.00 per month for Ph.D. candidates, to cover living costs, tuition, fees, and books.
- All awards shall follow guidance as provided in the *Welder Wildlife Foundation Fellowship Policy and Procedures*.
- Welder Wildlife Foundation is a non-profit organization. As such fellowship funds are for direct expenses only as the Foundation does not pay overhead and/or indirect costs to cooperating universities and research institutions.

## Application Procedures

The Foundation will consider research proposals in the areas of animal behavior, biology, botany, conservation education, conservation social sciences, ecology, ecosystem services, genetics, mammalogy, ornithology, parasitology, range science, veterinary pathology, and wildlife sciences.

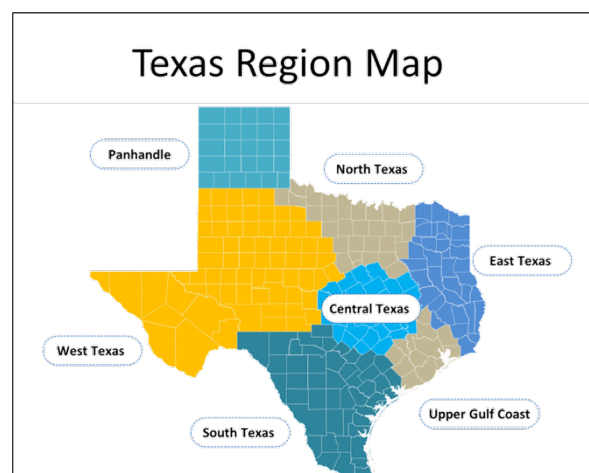
Applications are reviewed and ranked by a committee and will be judged based primarily on the criteria listed below. Applications typically scoring highest have projects that are scientifically sound and clearly highlight potential contribution to a) basic biology (e.g. developing/testing ecological theory or addressing fundamental uncertainties in wildlife/ecosystem ecology), b) wildlife and habitat conservation, and c) conservation agency/landowner management decisions.

### General scoring criteria:

- Academic qualifications of the student
- Career objectives statement
- Scientific merit
- Originality / creativity
- Contributions to basic biology
- Importance to wildlife conservation and management
- Achievability

Other things being equal, proposals will be ranked in the following order of descending priority:

1. Studies already in progress which need to be extended into or through the coming year.
2. New studies initiated on the Foundation Refuge or within the south Texas region (see map).
3. Proposals related to issues or species of special interest to the Foundation due to their relationship to our area, especially those projects that will inform better management practices and lead to on-the-ground implementation efforts.
4. After consideration of the above criteria and if funds remain, we will then take into consideration any research elsewhere within the continental U.S. and those making the greatest contribution to conservation of wildlife and their habitats.



## Application Details

**Deadline: Annually by 1 October. (However, it is encouraged that applications be submitted well in advance of deadline)**

Applications should include the following seven components for a completed application packet. Electronic submissions (pdf format) are preferred.

- Research proposal, not more than 6 pages in length (excluding figures, tables, timetable, and literature cited). The format is flexible, but should include:
  - An introduction to the problem (including a statement of research relevance to wildlife conservation and management)
  - Objectives and major hypotheses
  - The basic design of observations or experiments
  - General methods
  - A project timetable
  - Literature cited
- A budget, completed using provided budget template. (***Note: The Welder Wildlife Foundation is a non-profit organization and does not pay overhead/ indirect costs to cooperating universities and research institutions.***)
- Statement of career objectives (less than one page)
- Curriculum vitae of the student applicant
- Academic transcripts, including from your undergraduate degree (can be photocopies)
- A letter of endorsement from the applicant's advisor(s)
- One additional letter of recommendation, from someone other than your current graduate advisor(s) (can be sent separately, but may also be included in the application package)

## Where to Apply

Application packets should be sent to Dr. Dale James at [djames@welderwildlife.org](mailto:djames@welderwildlife.org) with **Subject Line: Fellowship Application\_ "Student Name"**

**For additional inquiries please contact:**

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***Thank you for your interest in the  
Welder Wildlife Foundation's Research Fellowship Program!***