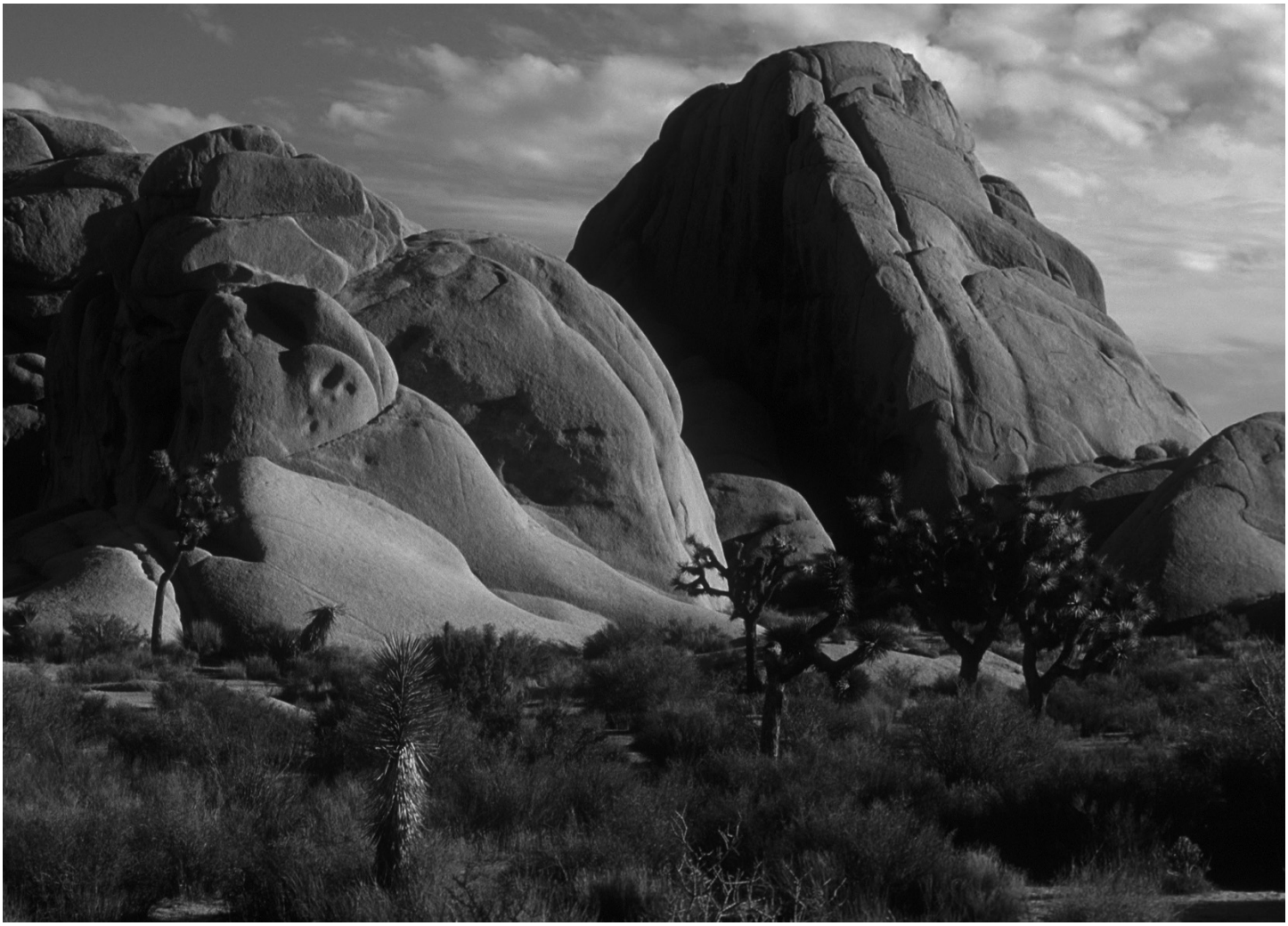
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Joshua Tree National Park
Joshua Tree National Park Association

Competitive Research Grant, 2007
Application Instructions and Guidelines



National Park Service photo

Joshua Tree National Park Competitive Research Grant

Program Guidelines

The Joshua Tree National Park Research Grant is made possible by generous financial support from the Lee Family Foundation and the Joshua Tree National Park Association.

Joshua Tree National Park announces a call for proposals for the Joshua Tree National Park Annual Competitive Research Grant. This program will provide up to $12,000 to support field research in the physical, biological, ecological, and cultural sciences. Research proposals should focus on answering questions about the significant natural and/or cultural resources of Joshua Tree National Park, the Mojave and Colorado Deserts, and the peoples who have lived in the Joshua Tree region.

Proposals should specifically address the research grant criteria given on the facing page. Submitted proposals will be rated and ranked by a park-based Review Committee.

Eligibility: The Joshua Tree National Park Annual Competitive Research Grant is open to all qualified researchers and field investigators including government agency scientists, university faculty, advanced degree candidates, private-sector research professionals, and other individuals with appropriate backgrounds and credentials. Employees of Joshua Tree National Park are not eligible, nor are employees or Directors of the Joshua Tree National Park Association able to apply.

All proposals should contain the following elements:

- A detailed research proposal addressing the grant criteria.
- Name, address, phone number, and email address for the principal investigator.
- Curriculum vitae showing principal accomplishments, research interests, past investigative activities, and published works
- A detailed project budget
- A project timeline
- An annotated list of project deliverables including planned journal articles or other publications.

The project selected for the Competitive Research Grant award will be required to meet the following conditions:

- Field work must commence in 2007.
- The principal investigator will obtain a valid research permit from the National Park Service and fulfill all attendant conditions of the park research permit process.
- Semi-annual progress reports must be submitted to the Joshua Tree National Park Association .
- A final project report must be submitted by January, 2009. Ten (10) copies of the final investigative report will be provided to JTNPA.
- By May 31, 2009, the principal investigator will prepare and make at least one presentation on their project as part of the Desert Institutue Lecture Series.

<u>Grant Program Schedule</u>

July 28, 2006	Science Grant Proposals due
August 30, 2006	Grant Award announced
Spring, 2007	Field work to begin
Fall, 2007	First progress report due
January 31, 2009	Final report due
Spring, 2009	Desert Institute presentation

Completed grant proposals should be sent by hard copy or FAX no later than July 28 to:

Executive Director
Joshua Tree National Park Association
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, CA 92277
760-367-5583 (FAX)

Proposals postmarked after July 28, 2006 will not be considered.

Project Ranking Criteria

How Proposals Will Be Judged

"To make sound management decisions, park managers need solid resource information based on the best science available."

Curt Sauer
Park Superintendent

Responses to project ranking criteria are required for all project proposals. These responses must address all of the following criteria. Responses to each criterion are limited to 250 words. Submissions that exceed this limit will not be accepted.

The project ranking criteria include:

1. Significance of the Resource or Issue to the Park: How important is the resource or issue to the park, relative to its other resources and issues?

2. Problem Definition and Information Base: Is the problem clearly defined and is the information base sufficient?

3. Technical Soundness: Are the proposed actions, methodologies and procedures the technically most appropriate choices for addressing the stated problem?

4. Project Support: What resources (including in-kind contributions) are available to support this project? A detailed description of total project costs, including other contributions is required.

5. Scientific Merit: What is the technical and scientific value of the project?

The project ranking criteria responses will be evaluated by a panel convened to review the project proposals. Panel members include:

Mr. Robert Lee, Chairman, Lee Family Foundation
Mr. Paul DePrey, Chief of Resources, Joshua Tree National Park
Mr. Joe Zarki, Chief Naturalist, Joshua Tree National Park
Mr. Larry Norris, NPS Southwest Research Coordinator,
Desert Southwest Cooperative Ecosystem Stsudies Unit
Mr. James Cornett, Research Ecologist, Joshua Tree National Park Association
Ms. Nancy Downer, Executive Director, Joshua Tree National Park Association

Questions about the Joshua Tree National Park Annual Competitive Research Grant Program should be directed to:

Paul DePrey, 760-367-5560
Joe Zarki, 760-367-5520