Partner Organization Project Proposal
Conservation Leadership through Learning - Colorado State University

Thank you for your interest in CLTL. We are excited to work with you to develop Final Project opportunities for our students. Please read through our Project Partner webpage, and then fill out this project interest form to let us know about your project ideas.

Organization Information
Organization Name: Round River Conservation Studies
Primary Contact: Doug Milek
Office Phone Number:
Primary Contact Email:

Alternate Phone Number:

Project Information
Students will participate in coursework at CSU from August 2016 to May 2017. In-situ work will commence June 2017 and be completed by October 1, with all deliverables completed by December 1, 2017.

☑ Please check this box to acknowledge these dates.

Brief Project Description:
Chilean Patagonia is one of the most remarkable and little-studied landscapes on Earth. It is also facing unprecedented threats from megadam projects, mining, industrial aquaculture, and climate change. Such threats may often seem distant in a place that, at present, remains largely wild and offers some of the last remaining strongholds for threatened and endangered wildlife, including the Andean Condor, Huemul Deer and Guanaco. In these remote hinterlands, the people of the Aysen region have managed to carve out a living. They raise livestock and harvest timber and crops on marginal lands in valley bottoms, southern beech forests, and montane steppe and grasslands. This landscape was never equipped to support large human populations, and its capacity to support its current population may be reaching a limit. Meanwhile the region's immense glaciers are melting, streams and rivers are changing course, and the winters have become merciful.

The goal of this project is to bring together information, resources, and communities, to create the first Climate Change Action Plan for Chilean Patagonia. In doing so, the hope is to provide a strategic vision for conservation and climate change adaptation in the region, something that has, until now, been lacking.

Below are the project criteria. Please check each criterion the project would likely meet.

☑ Community-based: on-the-ground work at a community/regional level, including interactions with and/or exposure to local decision-makers and/or stakeholders
☑ Multi-disciplinary: analysis and investigation of a conservation issue through multiple lenses (e.g., ecological, economic, social, political)
☑ Cross-cultural: opportunities for students to interact with individuals and/or in a culture vastly different than their own
☑ Networking: opportunities for students to interact with other conservation professionals

Final projects should provide opportunities for students to apply knowledge from their CLTL coursework. Please check the topics the proposed project would address:

☑ Biodiversity
☑ Governance/Decision-making
☑ Facilitation
☑ Spatial analysis
☑ Social science research methods
☑ Multi-level views of conservation
☑ Systems thinking
☑ Policy
☑ Ecosystem services
☑ Collaborative conservation
☑ Ecological research methods
☑ Outreach
Students are required to provide their project partner with a professional-level deliverable (e.g., management plan, technical report, communication materials, set of policy briefs, series of podcasts, etc.). Please provide a brief description of potential deliverables for your project:

A Climate Change Action Plan, which identifies species, ecosystems and communities potentially vulnerable to climate change, offers mitigation and adaptation strategies for local communities and agricultural systems, and generates maps delineating climate change "hotspots" in the region. This document would be ideally produced in both English and Spanish, and disseminated freely to partner organizations and local communities.

Please describe the project team, including who the student(s) would likely work with at the project site or if it would be mostly independent:

Student(s) would work in collaboration with Round River-Chile and the Comision Nacional Forestal (CONAF), as well as Conservacion Patagonica, the Comite Pro Defensa de la Fauna y Flora (CODEFF) and local non-profits such as Defensores del Espiritu de la Patagonia and Asociacion Gremial Rio Baker.

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**Project Details**

Project location (city, state/province, country): Aysen, Chile

Desired Number of Students: Min 1 Max 3

Please indicate in-kind support, if any, the student would receive (check all that apply):

- [ ] Room and board during fieldwork
- [ ] Room and board during entire project
- [X] Translators
- [ ] Research assistant(s)
- [ ] Travel to/from U.S. to project location
- [ ] Travel within/around project location
- [X] Additional support

Please describe: Field equipment

Please elaborate on any of the checked items above:

Student(s) would be given a detailed orientation during which they would be introduced to project partners, work sites, and key community members. They would also be provided support by the Round River Student Program in the form of research assistance, transportation (whenever possible), communications (if necessary), and access to and use of field equipment.

Preferred/Required skills and experience of the student(s):

Language proficiency:
- [X] Required
- Specify language: Spanish

Technical skills:
- [X] Required

Please specify:
- Basic understanding of climate change science, ecological processes, and socio-agricultural systems

Prior experience in country/region:
- [ ] Preferred
- Required

Please describe the connectivity at project site (e.g., internet access, mobile phone coverage):

Internet access is available in towns and cities. Mobile phone coverage is available in most towns, but severely limited in rural areas due to the rugged topography. Satellite phones are used for emergency communication.

Additional Comments:

At a latitude of 47º South, Patagonia experiences warm summers and cold winters with variable weather. Most precipitation falls during the winter months (June - September). Snowfall is moderate in the winter at lower elevations, but continues throughout the year at higher elevations; many mountains remain snow-covered year-round.

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Thank you for proposing a CLTL Final Project. We will contact you with any further questions about the proposed projects. If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at Terra.Smith@colostate.edu. We look forward to working with you.