

## SUMMARY

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I am applying for the University of New Mexico Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA) Graduate Research Allocation Committee (GRAC) Travel Grant to assist with travel expenses associated with my attendance at the 2015 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Fall Meeting from 14 to 18 December in San Francisco, California, USA. The annual AGU Fall Meeting is the largest interdisciplinary scientific meeting in the world, attracting nearly 24,000 researchers from a broad range of earth and space science disciplines, which includes the biogeosciences, global environmental change, hydrology, and informatics.

I have submitted an abstract to this year's meeting to present results from my M.S. graduate research, in which I examined soil nitrogen (N) availability in response to rain events that differed in both size and frequency over the course of a summer monsoon season in a desert grassland. While numerous studies have demonstrated a tight coupling between soil N availability and soil water content, this relationship is not well understood in desert ecosystems where rain events create pulses of biological activity. This project is unique in that it spans multiple temporal scales, thus providing a better understanding of nitrogen pulse dynamics in arid systems, which account for over 40% of the global terrestrial landmass. My results imply that less frequent larger monsoon events predicted by climate change models could result in lower soil N availability, which may limit desert grassland productivity in the future.

My research interests and professional background span multiple disciplines, which make the AGU Fall Meeting an ideal venue for disseminating and gathering feedback on my own research to be submitted for publication. Moreover, my success as a scientist depends on conference attendance to be inspired by and keep current of cutting edge research, network with colleagues, and to establish new connections and opportunities.

## BUDGET

ITEM	FUNDING SOURCE	STATUS	COST
1. Airfare	Sevilleta LTER	Pending	\$361.00
2. Abstract Submission Fee	Sevilleta LTER	Received and applied	\$35.00
3. Registration	Sevilleta LTER	Received and applied	\$230.00
4. Lodging	UNM Biology GRAC Travel Grant (\$150), UNM GPSA SRG-PDG Grant (\$500), and Sevilleta LTER (\$40.30)	Pending	\$690.30
5. Local Transportation	Sevilleta LTER	Pending	\$35.00
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1351.00</b>

1. *Airfare.* Round trip flight from Albuquerque, NM (ABQ) to San Francisco, CA (SFO) from 13 December 2015 through 19 December 2015. Fares were checked on 21 September 2015 through southwest.com and flight aggregator kayak.com. The cheapest flight option is through Southwest Airlines (SWA) at \$361.00.
2. *Abstract Submission Fee.* A \$35 fee was required by the AGU in order to submit an abstract to the 2015 Fall Meeting. Since my research project falls within the realm of the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) program, this fee was authorized and paid for on 5 August 2015 using limited Sevilleta LTER funds.
3. *Registration.* The early registration fee for a graduate student to attend the full 2015 AGU Fall Meeting is \$230. This registration fee was authorized and paid for on 22 September 2015 using Sevilleta LTER funds. Registration confirmation and receipt is attached.
4. *Lodging.* After an exhaustive search of AGU-sponsored lodging options, hotels.com, and airbnb.com, on 15 August 2015, I reserved lodging at the Geary Parkway Motel from 13 December 2015 through 19 December 2015 at the cost of \$115.05 per night, which includes tax. This lodging is significantly cheaper than any of the AGU-sponsored options and provided the cheapest rate at the expense of being further from the meeting location. ***I am requesting \$150 from the UNM Biology Graduate Student Association (BGSA) Graduate Research Allocation Committee (GRAC) to help cover lodging expenses.*** I am also applying for the UNM Graduate and Professional Association (GPSA) Student Research Grant and Professional Development Grant (SRG-PDG) for an additional \$500 to assist in covering these expenses. Since the current funding ability of the Sevilleta LTER is limited, finding other sources of funding has been strongly encouraged.
5. *Local Transportation.* Public transportation will be required in order to get to and from the airport as well as to and from the conference facility from my hotel. The 7-day Visitor Passport at \$35 provides the best and cheapest option for getting around San Francisco, allowing unlimited rides on Muni, Muni Metro, historic streetcars, and cable cars for a consecutive 7-day period.