

Summary: I am requesting funds to attend the 47th annual meeting of the Desert Fishes Council in Death Valley, CA from Nov. 18th to Nov. 22nd, 2015. My abstract “Retrospective food web analysis of the Gila River: Mapping isotopic niche space of native and non-native fishes” has been submitted for an oral presentation, and I am awaiting approval. This study examines how food web dynamics have changed through time in the Gila River, and considers changes in non-native abundance and fluctuating hydrology. It elucidates important trophic dynamics of this system, which can be applied to other aquatic systems in the arid southwest.

The Desert Fishes Council is dedicated to the preservation and study of desert aquatic ecosystems, and my research matches well with this mission. My project highlights new methods of using museum specimens for stable isotope analysis. The results of my project will be informative and relevant to the current management of the Gila River, a system where significant modifications to hydrology are proposed. Researchers from management agencies and academia attend this conference to make connections between current research and effective management, and I believe my results provide a timely contribution.

This conference will be my first as a graduate student, and this presentation will provide important training in effective communication. My career as an aquatic conservationist will benefit from connections made with professors and managers in this field. The topic of presentation is that of my masters thesis, and feedback from desert fish experts will provide advantageous input for my project. My goal is to work as a conservation biologist upon my graduation in the summer of 2016. The many resource professionals in attendance (USFWS, BLM, AZGF, NMGF, CAGF) provide an exceptional opportunity to meet potential employers and collaborators, as well as keeping in touch with previous connections with the BLM in Arizona.

Budget:

Item	Cost	Funding Source and Amount	Applied/Received
Desert Fishes Council Meeting- Student Registration	\$90.00	Desert Fishes Council Travel Grant- \$90	Applied
Furnace Creek Ranch and Hotel- Conference Reserved Rooms	\$122.40	GRAC Travel Grant \$122.40	Applied for here
Travel to Death Valley	\$36.09	GRAC Travel Grant \$36.09	Applied for here

Total Amount Requested: \$150.00

Budget Justification

(1) Desert Fishes Council Meeting- Student Registration

Early registration for students is \$90.00. Travel grant from the Desert Fishes Council has been applied for. Funding is pending.

(2) Furnace Creek Ranch and Hotel – Lodging

Furnace Creek Ranch is the site of the conference and has rooms reserved at a discounted conference rate. A room for one night is \$163.00, including taxes and resort fees. I will be sharing a room with 4 other people, which comes to \$40.80 per person, per night. I need a room for 3 nights, coming to a total of \$122.40 for the entire conference.

(3) Travel to Death Valley – carpool from Albuquerque

The round trip mileage from Albuquerque to Death Valley and back home, is 1388 miles. The vehicle driven will get approximately 25 mpg on the highway. This gives a total of 55.52 gallons of gas necessary. At approximately \$2.60 per gallon of gas, this comes to a total of \$144.35 for gas cost. This amount split between 4 people is \$36.09.