

## Research application form



### Mountain Research Station Research Application Form 2024

Completing this form is required for researchers wishing to use Niwot Ridge, the Green Lakes Valley in the City of Boulder Watershed, or the CU property around the Mountain Research Station for their work. This form will allow us to catalog the research projects and their location, and evaluate whether additional permission is needed from the US Forest Service (e.g. projects involving significant ground disturbance, the use of potentially toxic chemicals, or significant infrastructure such as towers or buildings).

For summer research we request forms be submitted before May 1, 2024. Forms submitted after May 1, 2024 requesting access to the City of Boulder watershed are unlikely to be approved.

**IMPORTANT: If you conducted research at the MRS in 2023 you must fill out the 2023 Research Report Google Form (<https://forms.gle/FgRs9FABTV3BkiRP8>) before a 2024 MRS Research Permit will be issued.**

*Please only fill this form out once.* Prior to opening the form in Qualtrics, download the example permit as a PDF and prepare your answers in a word document.

Thank you for your cooperation.

\*indicates required field

\*Last (family) name

\*First name

Department / University or Organization

\*Contact phone number

\*Email address

Emergency contact

Name

phone number

### Field Safety Plan

All groups must have a field safety plan in place and on-file (include below or e-mail to [mrs@colorado.edu](mailto:mrs@colorado.edu)) with their MRS research permit that addresses relevant hazards they may come across during their research, how those hazards can be avoided and/or mitigated, and how to respond should an incident occur. An example template safety plan is available on the MRS web site at <https://www.colorado.edu/mrs/research-natural-history/research-application-form>, although any format is acceptable.

Please also review CU Boulder COVID policies here: <https://www.colorado.edu/covid-19>

*\* Please note that working on Niwot Ridge and the Green Lakes Valley involves significant risk associated with rapid changes in weather, high elevation, lightning, overexertion, and rough terrain. If you are injured it will take significant time for you to receive medical attention. We strongly encourage everyone doing research to carry a first aid kit and receive first aid training, preferably Wilderness First Aid.*

Have you taken any first aid training?

- yes
- no

Please indicate what first aid course you've taken, and the latest year you were certified:

\* Have you previously done research at MRS/ Niwot Ridge?

- Yes
- No

What year(s) have you done research at MRS/ Niwot Ridge

## Logistical Requirements

If you wish to rent a cabin at MRS, please contact the station manager (mrs@colorado.edu, 303 492-8842). Housing options and rates can be found at <https://www.colorado.edu/mrs/general-info/user-fees>.

\*Will you be:

- commuting to MRS / Niwot Ridge
- Staying at MRS

\*Will you require office or laboratory space (including the Tundra Lab)? Please review fee schedule for the charges associated with using MRS facilities.

- Yes
- No

Describe your logistical needs from the MRS (lab/ office space). Lab and office space rents may be found at <https://www.colorado.edu/mrs/general-info/user-fees>.

\*Are you affiliated with the Niwot Ridge LTER Program

- Yes
- No

## Research Plan

Please enclose a research proposal with the following information if available.

\*Title of Research Program

\*Brief description of major research Objective(s)

Please describe in a paragraph your research plan, including:

- \* the organisms or features to be studied
- \* the specific methods to be used, including sample sizes for soil, plant, and animal collection
- \* the period during which your research will be conducted this season,
- \* the length of the research program.
- \* decommissioning/removal of any field equipment

Include as much detail as you can. Please note that substantial soil collection, collecting listed threatened or endangered species, or projects with substantial visibility impacts will require US Forest Service approval.

Please note: MRS staff time to support specific projects may be invoiced at an hourly rate of \$75/hour. This may include, but is not limited to, setup of equipment, transportation of equipment, administrative or field support, or clean-up of abandoned equipment/supplies.

\* Specify the research areas you plan to use (if known):

Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve near D1

- Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve near Saddle
- Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve east near T-van
- Green Lakes Valley/ City of Boulder Watershed (requires a permit)
- C1 Climate Station
- MRS property (Elk Meadows, Como Creek near camp, nearby forest)
- Not sure at this time
- Other not listed above (describe in the blank)

Please list the funding sources for your proposed project including funding agency, grant number, funding period, and amount. This info is useful when reporting to CU administration.

\* Will you be collecting or handling vertebrate animals as part of your research? If "yes" then please send a copy of your approved IUCAC form as an email attachment to [mrs@colorado.edu](mailto:mrs@colorado.edu)

- Yes
- No

\*Will you be using tracers (chemical, enriched isotopes)?

- Yes
- No

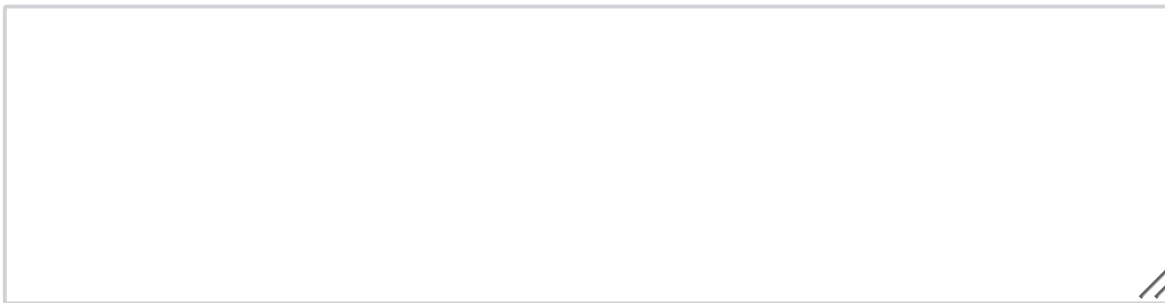
Please indicate the concentration, describe how large a dispersal area, and what is the expected increase over background concentration?



\* Will you be using any chemicals, hazardous or not, in the field or lab? \*\*MRS does not have a chemical lab. If your research requires chemical work you should coordinate with a lab on CU Boulder main campus.\*\*

- Yes
- No

Describe the chemical, what it will be used for, and its concentration.



\*\*No on-site waste disposal is available.\*\* Describe how the chemical waste will be disposed. Waste disposal must meet CU Boulder Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) guidelines, and users may be required to take the EH&S hazardous waste disposal course.



### Plot Markers

If you are using research markers, please describe them here (e.g. large nails). Please refrain from using markers that may be hazardous (e.g. protrude substantially from the soil and present a tripping or impaling hazard) or those that degrade quickly and disperse across the

landscape (flagging, whiskers). **Rebar is not permitted as a marker as per a USFS request.** Please also include your plan for removing plot markers / plot infrastructure.

### Plot/ sampling Location(s)

\* Please list the coordinates of your research area(s) below (each site on a separate row). It is preferable that you use decimal latitude/longitude with NAD83 datum. If you aren't certain where your plot(s) will be then indicate that in the blank. Many of the current research plot locations are shown at this link: <https://nwt.lternet.edu/research-plots>. Please use this map as a guide to find the coordinates of plots as well as to see that there is already a marker or plot listed for your sampling or observational plot.

If known, please list the names of your research assistants.

### City of Boulder Watershed Permits

The City of Boulder provides access to their watershed in the Green Lakes Valley for a very limited number of researchers. The Mountain Research Station assists the City in regulating this use, and access requires a research application form as well as the information requested below. Researchers working in the Green Lakes Valley must follow the strict regulations set forth by the City of Boulder.



\* Do you wish to apply to work in the Green Lakes Valley?

Yes

No

\* State why the research must be done in the watershed, and could not be done elsewhere. It is not sufficient to indicate that a certain feature or organism is found in the watershed- there must be a compelling reason the research can only be done in the Green Lakes Valley.

\* Indicate the exact location you wish to work, and whether you would enter on the watershed road or via Niwot Ridge. If approved this is the only site you can go to in the watershed.

\* Indicate the frequency of your proposed visits (per week or per month), and if possible indicate the exact dates of visitation.

\* Number of people that would enter the Green Lakes Valley on each visit- this should be kept to a minimum with justification for everyone's presence, although individuals will not be allowed to enter alone for safety reasons.

\* Provide the names of your research assistants that you would like to be able to enter the watershed.

Thank you for filling out the research application form. If there is a problem or information is missing you will be contacted. You will receive an email verification once it has been approved. Researchers receiving a Watershed permit will be contacted with information about protocols to be followed when working in the Green Lakes Valley.

Please contact the Mountain Research Station for questions (mrs@colorado.edu)

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