



Community-Based Research (CBR) Project Proposal Form

U-Links Administration Only

Project Number (automatically generated by CBR database): 5070

Recommended Courses and/or Disciplines (i.e. GEOG4030Y, FRSC4890Y, IDST3700Y/3710H/3720H, ERSC3160H, PSYCH or Alternatives):

Recommended Faculty Advisors:

PROJECT TITLE: Baseline Inventory Report for the Dahl Forest

A – CONTACT INFORMATION

Date: December 2021

Contact person: Greg Wickware

Phone: 905-975-7481 (M); 905-632-7481 (H)

Email: wickware@bell.net

B – COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION

a) Organization's name and address:

Haliburton Highlands Land Trust
739 Mountain Street
P.O. Box 1478
Haliburton, ON K0M 1S0

b) Briefly state the organization's purpose and the products or services offered:

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust (HHLT) is a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization and registered charity dedicated to conserving the natural environment and enhancing quality of life in the Haliburton Highlands.

Our conservation efforts include:

- Acquisition of ecologically or historically significant lands or wetlands
- Establishing interests in lands such as a conservation easement
- Engaging the community in support as volunteers to maintain and protect the properties in perpetuity.

We envision a future where the Haliburton Highlands is characterized by natural spaces and connections that support healthy and representative ecosystems and landscapes.

c) **Has an immediate supervisor or board approved this application?**

Yes

C - PROJECT SCOPE

a) **Full year undergraduate CBR projects are allotted 220 hours total, per 1-2 students on a single project. The condensed hours are similar to six weeks of full-time work. Full term students would be working on this project from September to April as part of a course, while balancing work from other courses as well. Does the scope of your project fit within this timeframe?**

Yes • No • Comments:

b) **Select the theme(s) for your project:**

• Cultural • Economic • **Environmental** • Social • Other:

c) **Based on the timeframe and complexity of your project, please indicate the potential project scale:**

- Single year project
- **Multi-year project (requiring follow up or several parts)**
- **Ideal for undergraduate students**
- **Ideal for graduate students (requires specialized knowledge/in-depth consideration of theory)**

d) **Is your project appropriate for a single student or a group?**

Group

e) **Describe the purpose of the project:**

Habitat loss and degradation are the greatest threats to biodiversity in Canada today. To mitigate this process in the Haliburton Highlands, the HHLT acquires lands of ecological and cultural significance for conservation purposes. Current properties include:

- The Dahl Forest – 500 Acres
- The Barnum Creek Nature Reserve – 500 Acres and associated Conservation Easement Property – 100 Acres
- Norah's Island – 22 Acres
- The Smith Forest – 72 Acres
- The Fred and Pearl Barry Wetland Reserve – 100 Acres

The HHLT is responsible for the long term management and conservation of ecological gifts and their ecologically sensitive features. To this end the HHLT is required to, and is responsible for, preparing management plans, setting up stewardship programs and initiating and maintaining monitoring programs for each of its properties. The HHLT's goal is to establish Permanent Sample Plots (PSP's) in representative Ecosites on each of the 5 properties. To date, 3 PSPs have been established in the Smith Forest, and 19 PSPs in the Dahl Forest.

The project objective is to incorporate data from the previously established PSPs in the Dahl Forest to create a Baseline Inventory Report of the forest. Having a baseline will make room for additional data collection such as vegetation and soil data for each of the PSPs.

f) **How will the project benefit your organization and/or clients?**

The establishment of Permanent Sample Plots (PSPs) will provide the HHLT with the ability to monitor, on a long term basis, changes in vegetation biodiversity and land use on its various properties. It is expected that the PSPs will be re-monitored every 10-15 years to track changes in biodiversity. Ecosites,

as defined by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), will provide the ecological framework for this monitoring process.

g) How will the results of this project benefit Haliburton County?

Conservation in the Haliburton Highlands matters deeply to people who live in the region and beyond. The HHLT's work is focused on private land conservation, and complements the mandates and activities of other organizations and agencies in the area, including municipal, provincial and federal governments, conservation authorities, and other NGOs.

We envision a future where the Haliburton Highlands is characterized by natural spaces and connections that support healthy and representative ecosystems and landscapes.

D – RESEARCH DESIGN

a) What are the proposed research questions to be answered?

During the 2017 – 2021 academic years students from Trent University established PSP's on the Dahl and Smith Forests. As part of the project, the student's also prepared PSP establishment and monitoring protocols which will be used going forward as additional PSP's are established on all HHLT properties. These protocols follow best practices established by other organizations (i.e. Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network – EMAN).

1. What is the current state of vegetation biodiversity on the HHLT Dahl Forest property?

b) What are your ideas on how these questions might be answered (i.e. survey, literature review, field work etc.)?

All data would be entered into an electronic database to be developed by the students in collaboration with the HHLT to ensure it is spatially relatable to existing GIS frameworks. A final report will be prepared summarizing the survey results.

c) Do you have knowledge of or expertise with these types of research methods?

Yes. The database component will be overseen by the HHLT GIS volunteer to make sure the database design and structure follow specific requirements.

E - SCREENING AND/OR TRAINING

a) Do the students require any specific screening or training? (e.g. police checks, confidentiality agreements, CPR, WHMIS):

No.

EXAMPLES: Projects involving vulnerable populations may require police checks. Some types of field work may involve WHMIS or other safety related training. Students and hosts working on boats need to understand and follow the U-Links Boat Safety Guidelines.

F – RESEARCH ETHICS

a) Does the research involve human subjects? (i.e. surveys, interviews)

Yes • **No** •

NOTE: If yes, the students may be required to submit an application for ethical review of the research. This process may take several weeks and will need to be taken into consideration when creating project timelines.

b) If your project involves collecting human subject data (i.e. interview transcripts), would you like access to that “raw” data at the end of the project, in addition to receiving the “summary” of data in the final report?

Yes • **No** •

c) Does the organization/employer have policies about research ethics approval?

Yes • **No** •

If yes, please explain:

G – PROJECT TASKS AND TIMELINE *(This section should be completed by the final draft)*

a) Please outline the major tasks and timelines involved in completing the project.

These tasks include important information to be gathered, key stakeholders who should be involved, relevant dates for your organization, and critical meetings for the student to attend. Your Coordinator can help you complete this section.

Task: Set Initial Meeting with Host Organization

Objective: For students to meet with the host organization to provide clear goals, objectives, and provide orientation and background resources to students.

Date: January 2022

Task: Complete Project Agreement

Objective: Finalize logistics and responsibilities of each party.

Date: January 2022

Task: Literature Review/Database Creation

Objective: Gather relevant literature to answer host’s questions

Date: January/February 2022

Task: Interim Progress Report

Objective: Ensure goals set by the host are on track to be achieved, ensure students have enough background information to succeed

Date: February 2022

Task: Draft Report

Objective: Draft report delivered to host and U-Links for review and feedback

Date: March 2022

Task: Host Review and Feedback on Documents

Objective: Provide feedback as needed

Date: March 2022

Task: Poster Creation

Objective: Create a poster for the celebration of research

Date: February 2022

Task: Final Draft Report

Objective: Submit final report to host organization and U-Links for review and feedback

Date: Late March 2022

Task: Host Feedback on Final Report

Objective: Provide feedback as needed

Date: Late March 2022

Task: Submit Final Report

Objective: Final report will be submitted to the host organization reflecting feedback; report will be posted on the U-Links database

Date: April 2022

Task: Participation in Celebration of Research

Objective: Share research and knowledge gained with the community in the format of a poster and make connections within the community.

Date: March 26, 2022

b) Indicate important start and end dates for the project, if applicable:

January to April, 2022

H – RESOURCES

NOTE: All known and needed resources should be listed in this section (e.g. for project coordination, data collection and analysis, software, hardware, photocopying, office supplies, workspace, travel expenses, food and refreshments, training, etc.). Students' travel expenses are reimbursed by U-Links at the end of the term.

a) What resources are needed to support the research – financial or otherwise? Please indicate what, if any, resources your organization might be able to provide.

The HHLT project representative is available to support the students in familiarization with the Dahl forest property and to assist with any questions that arise during data collection and plot establishment.

HHLT staff will upload data into the GIS.

b) Do you anticipate needing funding or other types of resources? If so, please explain (including any ideas on where resourcing may be obtained):

No.

I – KNOWLEDGE SHARING

NOTE: Please note the researcher(s) will own the copyright for all work completed as part of his/her involvement, but the lead organization/group/employer may use all project outputs in whole or in part, as it sees fit as long as the researcher(s) is duly credited as the author. If work is completed collaboratively, copyright will be decided by all project participants.

a) **How are the project results to be circulated and made useful to the broader community? Please indicate all that applies from the list below:**

- Academic article
- Conference/forum
- Manual
- Marketing, promotional, newsletter, outreach materials
- Policy brief
- Report
- Roundtable
- Video
- Workshop
- Presentation to the host organization
- Not sure of the above, let's talk some more

b) **If there are special circumstances where results might not be made public, please explain:**
None.

J - ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

a) **Are you able to credit U-Links when utilizing project results for the development of new programs, funding applications, policy, and other community endeavors?** *(Suggestions: cite U-Links and display our logo in your organization's printed matter and on your website, credit U-Links when speaking about your project in public and in the press, social media etc.)*

b) **Following successful completion of the research project, with results beneficial to the goals of your organization, would you consider a financial contribution to U-Links?** Yes No Possibly

c) **Can we highlight your project on our website and in social media?** Yes No

K – PROJECT PROMOTION

Please “insert” an image below to help promote your project proposal.

