



## Moorland Research Fund 2010 – call for applications

Moors for the Future Partnership and the Yorkshire Peat Partnership invite applications to a new research grant fund to support topical, high quality research among young researchers and its transfer into practical information and advice for a wide range of moorland practitioners. The Moorland Research Fund (MRF), will initially run for three years and is supported and administered by organisations with a direct stake in maintaining healthy moorlands. Focusing on the moorlands of Northern England, the MRF builds on the hugely successful 'Small Research Fund' run by the Moors for the Future Partnership between 2004 and 2006. During this period 30 projects were funded to a total value of over £39,000 (click [here](#) for a list of projects funded).

The fund will support projects that advance our knowledge, understanding and valuation of moorlands, the services they provide and pressures they face. Applications are sought from both the natural and social sciences for projects that have strong practical application in areas such as moorland restoration and sustainable management and for issues relating to the ecosystem service benefits of moorlands. Projects should aim to be relevant at the landscape scale and address not just issues of concern today, but potential future issues and those related to the effects of climate change. Secondary analysis of existing data sets is supported as are modelling / simulation projects.

Knowledge exchange between the academic and practitioner communities is a key aim of the Fund. Part of the MRF programme will be an annual conference where successful applicants will present their findings to a practitioner (end-user) audience. Additional emphasis on the importance of knowledge exchange will be fostered by through a selected number of projects each year being supported in publishing their research findings as a 'Research Note' that translates academic research into relevant and usable information for practitioners and stakeholders.

### Scope of the Moorland Research Fund

The 2010 call for applications to the Moorland Research Fund This call for applications comprises two elements:

- 1) Open call. Applications will be accepted on research projects that address the aims of the Fund yet encourage and support novel research themes and approaches.
- 2) Invited call on selected issues. Applications are requested on specific issues, topics or locations to ensure that issues that are of high priority to the moorlands and moorland community are addressed. In 2010, we are requesting applications in the following areas:
  - efficiency and effectiveness of moorland restoration techniques (in the short and long term)
  - moorland hydrology (intact, degraded and restored moorlands; factors, functioning and impacts)
  - greenhouse gas emissions (intact, degraded and restored moorlands)
  - moorland biodiversity conservation
  - recreational use (patterns, pressures, 'experience quality' (benefits) and impacts)
  - wildfire (risk, suppression and mitigation, costs and impacts)

Applications are invited for awards between £500 and £2000 for research projects that run over the summer period 2010. Funds may be used towards the cost of transport, the employment of casual and short-term assistance (e.g. volunteer support - *not* permanent staff salary or bench fees) and the purchase of small items of equipment. The moorlands of primary geographic interest are those within North York Moors National Park, Yorkshire Dales National Park, Nidderdale AONB, South Pennines and Peak District National Park.

Please note: Payment will be divided between two equal instalments, the first released at the start of the project, the second on receipt of a final report. Universities need to sign responsibility for students/researchers working on field sites and ensure that appropriate Health and Safety considerations will be taken into account. Moors for the Future can provide guidance on safe outdoor working policies.

**MRF timetable:**

Deadline for submission of applications	18 February 2010
Notifications of successful applicants	26 February 2010
Release of 1 <sup>st</sup> funding instalment (conditional)	5 March 2010
Delivery of project report	13 December 2010
Release of 2 <sup>nd</sup> funding instalment (conditional)	16 December 2010

**How to apply for a MRF award in 2010**

Applications should be made on the MRF application form.

To request an application form please contact:

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