

COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE (CRP) RESEARCH POLICIES

Procedural Policies

1. A copy of all required agency authorizations, such as unexpired federal- or state-issued handling permits for sensitive species, must be on file at the CRP before the Access Permit is issued.
2. Access to CRP property may be granted, denied, or restricted at any time by the Preserve Manager or designated representative for any reason.
3. All changes in procedure, location, timing, duration, or scope to the project must be approved by the Preserve Manager or designated representative in writing before changes may commence. New collaborators or assistants may be added at any time via the submission of his/ her Release of Liability to the CRP.
4. All research permits expire on December 31st of the year issued. Researchers wishing to conduct multi-year studies must renew their permit every year.
5. For multi-year projects, the principal researcher must submit a research progress report to the primary contact annually by **December 31**. The researcher will not receive updated gate combinations until after a satisfactory progress report is received by CRP staff. The progress report must include, at a minimum, a description of tasks accomplished and methods used, a graphic portrayal of sampling locations, and all raw data collected on CRP property. CRP does not require ownership of data, only possession.
6. At the end of the project, the researcher must submit all raw data collected at the CRP in an electronic form acceptable to CRP staff. The researcher must also submit a final project report within 60 days of the completion date of his/ her research. At a minimum, the report will include a description of methods used, a graphic and verbal portrayal of results, and a discussion of the results' applicability to the CRP. Both paper and electronic copies of subsequent theses, dissertations, publications, reports, GIS layers, etc. relating to the study shall be submitted within 60 days of being finalized.
7. If abiotic or native biotic specimens, living or dead, are to be collected in any quantity for any reason, each collector must follow the collection policies outlined below.

Research Implementation Policies

1. Researchers must abide by CRP rules as well as all State, Federal, and Local laws, regulations, policies, and procedures while conducting their activities on the premises. Any violation(s) may be grounds for revocation of the researcher's access permit and/or grounds for law enforcement action.
2. Research projects generally should be non-invasive, with no long-term impacts on natural communities or populations. All projects conducted at the CRP should yield results that can

be used as the basis for management decisions at the CRP and/or strive to solve real-world conservation issues.

3. Negative impacts associated with conducting research on CRP will be minimized by proper use and preparation (*e.g.*, washing and decontamination) of vehicles and equipment, and careful selection of study areas, schedules, and personnel. If CRP personnel identify negative impacts or wasteful practices that could affect the CRP, researchers will cooperate to avoid or minimize the impacts.
4. All gates must be returned to the condition in which they were found (*e.g.*, open, dummy locked, or locked) immediately after personnel/ vehicles have passed through. This is not only for safety, but also for livestock management.
5. Generally, during the rainy season, dirt roads are off limits to all vehicular travel for 24 hours following a rain event, unless otherwise approved by CRP staff.
6. Care must always be taken to avoid starting fires with vehicles, equipment, etc. Vehicles must never be parked with the catalytic converter in contact with dry vegetation. Researchers must be cognizant of annual fire season restrictions that are imposed by the Preserve Manager or by the individual land-owning organization (usually around June 15th). Researchers may be held responsible for the cost of fire suppression activities by the local fire departments if it is determined that their actions were the cause of a fire.
7. Researchers should meet with CRP staff (their primary contact) at least once per field season to discuss the project, conduct site visits, and coordinate on any relevant issues.
8. During the initial project evaluation, a determination will be made as to the permanency of study plots, transects, marking, materials, or equipment. All equipment, materials, etc. not designated as permanent must be removed from the field by the researcher in accordance with the scheduled project timetable. Failure to remove all research materials may result in denial of future access permits.
9. Researchers will minimize transport of non-native and/or invasive species by following these guidelines:
 - a. Ensure that equipment and personal gear is free of weed seed, other weed propagules (*e.g.*, rhizome fragments or algal mats), plant matter potentially infected with pathogens, animals (such as aquatic invertebrates), and animal eggs/ juveniles prior to transport to CRP lands. If working with pathogens, sterilize equipment and personal gear to industry standards prior to transport to CRP lands.
 - b. Operate vehicles only on existing roads.
 - c. Minimize soil disturbance.

Collection Policies

1. All collecting of plants, animals, rocks, minerals, or parts thereof (living or dead) must be authorized in writing by CRP's Preserve Manager, using the collection permit form. The collections shall be used for scientific or educational purposes only, and shall not be used for commercial profit.

2. If a federal- or state-issued handling/ collection permit is required, a copy of each valid, unexpired permit in the collector's name must be on file at the CRP before the collection is authorized by CRP.
3. Researchers are expected to collect discriminately, taking only the amount necessary to complete the project. Where a voucher is appropriate, researchers should collect only a single individual. If a number of individuals must be collected, neither the survival nor reproductive capacity of the population should be threatened. Carefully consider the cumulative effect of research and teaching efforts on the population or occurrence.
4. Researchers are expected to collect in a discreet manner, away from roads, trails, and developed areas unless specified. Minimize damage to the physical site by restoring soil and litter to the original condition. CRP staff may designate the kind, number, sizes, and places of scarce or important specimens that are not to be collected as necessary for the preservation of the area.
5. CRP expects researchers to care properly for collected specimens. Unless previously agreed, use standard collecting techniques to ensure usability, preservability, or survivability if you plan to maintain live plants or animals. Follow standard specimen preservation and labeling methodologies. When finished with a collected specimen, deposit the specimen in a permanent public museum or in the exhibit, study, or type collections of scientific or educational institutions, and inform the Preserve Manager or primary CRP contact of that location. CRP reserves the right, in the interest of science, to designate the depository of all specimens.
6. When collecting for research requiring live plants, use techniques least likely to damage the population or occurrence. The collection preference is for seed (only if abundant), then cuttings or plant parts, then whole plants. Always leave reproductive or regenerative parts, such as roots, fruits, or rhizomes.
7. The Preserve Manager must authorize in writing the collection of multiple specimens for exchange or population studies. The collection of multiples will be permitted only if the population or occurrence can support such numbers and if a scientifically designed sampling plan is used. The general maximum allowance is 5% of the known population.
8. Researchers must keep all CRP permits with them when collecting. Researchers should be prepared to educate others as to what, how, and why the collection is taking place, with emphasis on conservation issues. The permittee may be required to furnish an inventory and locality description of the proposed collection and allow examination of the assembled collection.