

Memorandum

From: CoRenewal Incorporated

To: Primary Investigators, Academic institutions

Subject: CoRenewal 2025 Conservation Research Solicitation

Date: August 31st, 2025

Description of Opportunity

CoRenewal is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving biodiversity and ameliorating the impacts of natural disasters and ecological disturbances on both community and ecosystem health.

CoRenewal seeks to invest in pre-competitive research and development of new technologies at universities that address the research priorities of CoRenewal's mission. CoRenewal invites researchers across its university sites to submit proposals relevant to CoRenewal's core research areas with fungi: Fungi and heavy metals, Fungi and fire, and Fungi and conservation.

CoRenewal's Mission

We are committed to environmental justice, education and collaborative, community-led solutions for supporting ecological resilience. We emphasize the role of Fungi in restoration, specifically in addressing 'global change drivers' such as invasion, pollution, drought, and habitat loss or modification, including but not limited to petroleum-contaminated, fire-affected, or heavy-metal contaminated agricultural or natural ecosystems.

We are seeking researchers conducting scientific research on

- Ecological remediation methods with fungi, plants, and other nature-based solutions to clean up pollution in waste, land, and water.
- Supporting communities disproportionately affected by pollution by providing certified training and workforce development as well as accredited education and resources.
- Collaborating with community organizations, regulatory agencies, governments, and academic institutions to promote environmental justice.
- Advocating for equitable environmental policies and practices at local, state, and national levels.

We are interested in drivers of fungal and microbial taxonomic and functional distributions in plants and soils, as well as the influence of microbial communities on ecosystem-level processing of carbon and nutrients. Global change drivers are affecting microbial composition and function, but observing these effects in real time will preclude advancement of global change ecology. We aim to support researchers observing global change in real time by utilizing long-term

translocation experiments which are a space-for-time substitution for climate change and may illustrate ecosystem-level effects of shifts in microbial composition through field-based observation sampling.

Soil and host-associated microbiomes in conservation areas may be critical to survival and the resilience of their hosts and associated ecosystems. However, there is presently a lack of knowledge about many key aspects of soil and its dynamics such as variations in the moisture and organic matter content, and how these variations affect soil and ecosystem health, habitat stability, and emergent phenomena such as wildfire hazard. CoRenewal will address this knowledge gap with a mission to support research related to agriculture, defense, energy, sustainability, and environment. CoRenewal’s participating scientists will train the next generation of workforce in measurement and monitoring practices that will broadly benefit society.

Key Dates

Activity	Description	Date
RFP Issued	Solicitation distributed to researchers at partner universities	31 January 2025
Proposals Due	3-page whitepaper submission deadline	31 August 2025
Projects Reviewed	SoilTech Industry Advisory Board meeting held and project selections made	September 2025

Awardees Notified All proposers will be notified of the outcomes for their research proposals **TBD+1 September 2025**

Project Start Date	1 October 2025
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CoRenewal’s 2025 Priority Topics for Research Proposals

Topic 1	Soil microbiomes and translocations
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Conservation areas are highly valuable, however, energy exploration and land development threaten the survival of host-microbial symbioses. Field components and laboratory analyses, geospatial and ecological characterization of translocation	
Topic 2	Wildfire and soil nutrient cycling
Integrated modeling; machine learning; uncertainty analyses to inform field initiatives, Carbon capture technologies; integrating carbon capture & carbon accounting; soil organic carbon dynamics; monetizing carbon credits	
Topic 3	Plant and soil health and sustainable ecological management
Bioremediation, impacts for ecosystem recovery, organic matter dynamics, pesticide impacts and turfgrass weed ecology	

CoRenewal 2025 Board of Director Members

Brendan O’Brien
Aishwarya Veerabahu
Daniel Stevens
Taylor Bright
Paulette Goyes
Monica Neff
Devin Fleurdujon

Proposal Submission Instructions

Technical proposals should be a maximum of 3 pages (including figures), single-spaced, minimum of 12-point font, and minimum 0.5-inch page margins. Proposals must include the following information:

- Statement of objectives relevant to one of the priority topics listed above
- Description of research plans, including methods & instrumentation
- Expected outcomes/deliverables
- Research timeline with project milestones
- Biosketch for each researcher [not included in 3-page limit]
- 1-page reference list [not included in 3-page limit]
- 1-page budget and budget justification [not included in 3-page limit] (see below)

Proposal Budgets & Budget Justification

Please use the following template for your budget:

Faculty Salary	\$
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Faculty Fringe Benefits [please check with your university for the current fringe rate]	\$
Postdoctoral Scholar Salary	\$
Postdoctoral Fringe Benefits [please check with your university for the current fringe rate]	\$
Graduate Research Assistant Stipend	\$
Materials & Supplies	\$
Equipment	\$
Travel	\$
Overhead (10%)	\$
Graduate Research Assistant Tuition	\$
Total	\$

Additional Submission details

- Projects must be led by at least one faculty member from a university site .
- The project performance period may be up to one year. Projects may be invited for renewal/continuation as appropriate.
- Up to eight projects will be funded in the amount of \$45,000 each.
- Proposals should be *pre-competitive* in nature and are not expected to generate intellectual property (IP). Use of background IP should be avoided.

Proposal materials, compiled into a single PDF, should be submitted to Alisa Wilson (corenewalinc@gmail.com) by 17:00 Pacific Time (UTC-08:00) on 31 August 2025.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be reviewed by the CoRenewal BoardD, whose membership is listed above.

- Reviewers will be asked to comment on proposals’ major and minor strengths and weaknesses in the following areas:
 - technical merit (50%)
 - project feasibility based on budget and team expertise (50%)
- Proposals will be selected based on their level of alignment with CoRenewal’s mission

- Proposals should adhere to one or more of the priority research topics