

TOMMY GAINES RESEARCH STIPEND

Application Deadline

Applications are accepted anytime during the academic year when funds are available.

Award Amounts

\$1,000 or more if funds are available. Check with Scholarship, Research, and Creative Opportunities Committee for availability.

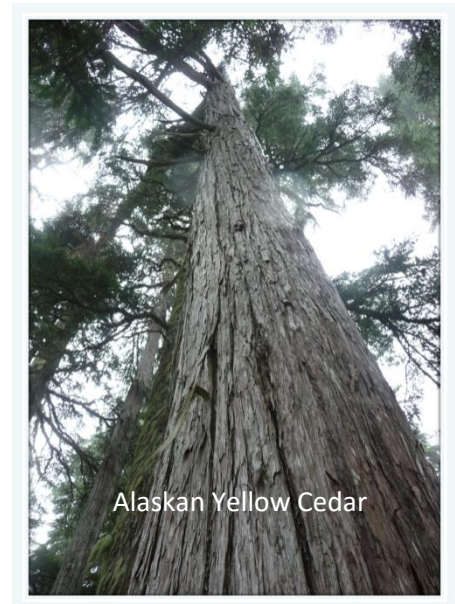
Purpose

The purpose of the Tommy Gaines Research Stipend (TGRS or Stipend) is for enrolled WWU College of the Environment (CENV) undergraduate or graduate students to conduct and apply research in or about the Canyon Lake and Kenney Creek watersheds. The Stipend is a means to help support students in research and community involvement.

About Canyon Lake

Research opportunities are varied and include ecology, biology, hydrology, geomorphology, forestry, natural resource policy and regulation, environmental education, land use and management, wildlife, and dendrochronology. The geographic focus of the Stipend is the Canyon Lake Creek and Kenney Creek watersheds in Whatcom County, which are significant in many ways:

- The Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest, in the upper Canyon Lake Creek watershed, contains 600 acres of virgin forest with 1,000-year-old Alaskan Yellow Cedars.
- The plant ecology is exceptionally diverse and ranges from Sitka Spruce (coastal) to Mountain Hemlock (upper montane) with a substantial component of Alaskan Yellow Cedar.
- Wetlands occur in bedrock hollows throughout the area and the ridgetop forests often hold snow into the summer.
- Canyon Lake was formed about 150 years ago by a landslide. The lake contains standing dead trees and is a productive ecosystem. Landslides many thousands of years old are dominant features in the watersheds.
- Most of the watersheds have been intensively managed for forestry, with some areas on their third rotation.



About Tommy Gaines

Thomas (Tommy) Gaines obtained a Master's Degree in Environmental Science in 1993 at Huxley College of the Environment at Western Washington University (WWU) to learn about and better protect the area around where he lived. He was successful. Amongst other achievements, his efforts

initiated the protection of the old growth forest within the Canyon Lake Creek Community Forest now owned by WWU and Whatcom County.

Tommy conducted research throughout the watershed at every opportunity and worked diligently to inform, include, and involve the local and greater communities in these efforts. He inspired others to do the same where they lived and worked. His area of interest at Huxley was landscape ecology, natural resource policy and regulation, and Geographic Information Systems. His Master's thesis was conducted in the Canyon Lake watershed and evaluated the role of unstable landforms (e.g., potential landslide sites) as wildlife habitat.

Tommy Gaines passed away in July 2004. This Stipend honors Tommy through fostering the ability of students to conduct research and involve the community.

Restrictions and Requirements

- Student must be in good academic standing, and must be enrolled at WWU's College of the Environment for the duration of the project.
- Projects must partially or wholly fulfill requirements of a course (e.g. ENVS/ESCI 498 series, independent study) or a Master's thesis.
- Preference will be given to students who demonstrate a commitment to applied, environmental research and community activism.
- Projects must be in or about the Canyon Lake and/or Kenney Creek watersheds.¹
- A public presentation of the research, including results is required. The presentation must be to the local community, regulatory bodies, or other stakeholders (i.e. presentation to other students and/or faculty at WWU will not meet this requirement). Recipients are responsible for organizing and delivering the presentation.
- A research proposal as described under "Application Process" below is required.
- Project must be acceptable to the relevant landowners and/or the Whatcom Land Trust where they hold easements.
- Recipients may reapply after 12 months.
- If a funded project changes substantially, as determined by the faculty advisor, the student must reapply.
- A written report of the results of the project will be submitted to the College of the Environment's Scholarship, Research, and Creative Opportunities Committee. The report will be published by Huxley College as the Tommy Gaines Research Series.

Use of Funds

Funds are applied to the recipient's financial account, and may affect his or her financial aid package.

¹ See Tommy Gaines Research Stipend Background and Reference Guide document for further explanation.

Application Process

Proposals are generally three to five pages and should include the following:

1. Standard cover page, approved and signed by sponsoring faculty member – ***see sample cover page below***
2. Letter of reference from sponsoring faculty advisor
3. Research proposal. Narrative shall include:
 - i. Background
 - ii. Purpose
 - iii. Methods
 - iv. Research Design or Implementation Plan
 - v. Equipment list*
 - vi. Anticipated Results
 - vii. Schedule
 - viii. Works cited

Proposals should be submitted to the Scholarship, Research, and Creative Opportunities Committee **via email**. Check with the the CENV office (360-650-3521) for the name and email address of the Committee Chair. Awards are competitive.

Examples of funded proposals are posted on the [CENV website](#). Funded proposals will be made available to the public and announced to the College of the Environment.

*Equipment list should include anticipated sources of additional funding and arrangements for access to equipment and laboratory space. Possible sources of additional funding include the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and College of the Environment (look under [Other Scholarship Opportunities](#): <https://cenv.wvu.edu/scholarships>). Arrangements for access to University equipment and laboratory space should be made directly through faculty.

-----*Sample proposal cover page*-----

Title: Inventory of Yellow Cedar Trees in Canyon Lake Community Forest

From: Tom H. Huxley, B.A. Geography major

Phone number

E-mail address

To: Scholarship, Research, and Creative Opportunities Committee, College of the Environment

Project Duration: Start date _____ Finish date _____

Typed applicant name

Applicant signature

Date

Approved by:

Typed project advisor name

Advisor signature

Date

Narrative should begin on this page.

- i. Background
- ii. Purpose
- iii. Methods
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