



## Smith Fellows 2015 Call for Proposals Announced

The Society for Conservation Biology is pleased to solicit applications for the David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship Program. These two year postdoctoral fellowships enable outstanding early-career scientists to improve and expand their research skills while directing their efforts towards problems of pressing conservation concern for the United States.

Each Fellow is mentored by both an academic sponsor who encourages the Fellow's continued development as a conservation scientist and a conservation practitioner who helps to connect the Fellow and her/his research to practical conservation challenges. Fellows may be administratively based at either their sponsoring academic institution or conservation organization, typically the location of either their academic or practitioner mentor. We encourage applicants to consider being based at the non-academic institution as that is the world less familiar to Fellows.

Fellows will spend up to three weeks per year during their fellowship attending Program-sponsored professional development retreats each year. These retreats provide opportunities to cultivate skills typically not covered during their academic education including: leadership, communications, professional and funder networks, and to gain better understanding of policy making and application of research.

The Program especially encourages individuals who want to better link conservation science and theory with pressing policy and management applications to apply. We envision that the cadre of scientists supported by the Smith Fellows Program eventually will assume leadership positions across the field of conservation science. Fellows are selected on the basis of innovation, potential for leadership and strength of proposal.

The deadline for receipt of application materials is **12 September 2014**. The Program expects to select four Fellows in January 2015 for appointments to start between March and September 2015. Fellowship awards include an annual salary of \$50,000, benefits, and generous travel and research budgets.

For detailed proposal guidelines, please visit:

<http://www.conbio.org/mini-sites/smith-fellows/apply/proposal-guidelines>

Questions may be directed to Shonda Foster, Program Coordinator, by emailing [sfoster@conbio.org](mailto:sfoster@conbio.org).