

CBO-Central Arizona Conservation Alliance Biodiversity Fellowship

One Central Arizona Conservation Alliance (CAZCA) Biodiversity Fellowship will be awarded for the 2016-2017 academic year in the amount of \$12,000 to a graduate student. The recipient will conduct research that will address priority questions that have been identified by the CAZCA. The Center for Biodiversity Outcomes and the CAZCA jointly fund this fellowship. The fellowship funds will be dispersed by July 31, 2016 as follows: \$6000 during summer 2016, \$6000 upon completion, during summer 2017.

To apply, send the following materials to Stacie Beute (sbeute@dbg.org) by June 15, 2016. The recipient will be notified no later than **July 1, 2016**.

Required materials	Page limit
Detailed CV	No limit
Cover letter describing applicant's research interests and how this project fits with their graduate thesis or dissertation work	1 page, 11.5 font
Research proposal (see priority research topics listed below; include introduction, research questions, methods, expected results, and how the research will inform management)	2 pages, 11.5 font
Timeline of project (1 year, to be completed by June 15, 2017)	1 page
Budget (may be used for student salary, transportation, supplies)	1 page
Transcripts	No limit
Letter from the current or prospective applicant's graduate advisor. Letter should indicate their approval of the proposal and support in mentoring the student on the proposed research.	1-2 pages
Evidence of GIS expertise (e.g. certificate, employment, course work, degree)	No limit

Requirements for the fellowship:

1. The recipient must have a minimum GPA of 3.50.
2. The recipient must have demonstrated GIS expertise.
3. Applicant must be a current or incoming graduate student in one of the graduate programs administered by ASU at the time of application.
4. The student will have a faculty advisor who is a CBO faculty affiliate.
5. The recipient must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.5 throughout the tenure of the award.
6. The recipient will work with the CAZCA & ASU (faculty advisor) to draft a research proposal that outlines the project goals, methodology, timelines, and other project details.
7. In the event that the research leads to a publishable journal article, the student will publish results of this work in a timely manner and acknowledge support from The Center for Biodiversity Outcomes and the Conservation Alliance

8. The \$12,000 will be dispersed as follows: \$6000 during summer 2016, \$6000 in the summer after the final report is completed and approved by ASU faculty advisor and the CAZCA (by May 15, 2017). All funds will be dispersed by July 31, 2017.

Priority research topic

As noted above, the fellowship recipient will conduct research to address high-priority research topics identified by the Central Arizona Conservation Alliance. The Central Arizona Conservation Alliance is a dedicated, coordinated, sustained initiative to foster collaboration and community engagement in the study, restoration, and promotion of our regional desert mountain preserve system. The vision of the Alliance is a sustainable preserve system that supports healthy ecosystems and healthy communities.

The Connectivity and Habitat Blocks working group of the CAZCA has a target to complete an analysis of biological connectivity and habitat block size of preserved lands in Maricopa County by May 2017. This analysis will be integral to developing a conservation strategy for the region including Maricopa County and adjacent lands. The working group needs a student to collect relevant GIS layers and conduct connectivity analysis to help identify key areas for conservation outside of current preserved areas. The student will work closely with the working group to connect the proposed project with the working group goals and objectives. The student should propose relevant analysis methods and a timeline in their proposal.

It is highly advised to meet with the working group chair (Scott Sprague, AZGFD, ssprague@azgfd.gov) and CAZCA's program lead (Stacie Beute, sbeute@dbg.org) to discuss your ideas and ensure that your proposed research aligns with the research priorities of the Alliance.