Internship with the
Santa Lucia Conservancy

**Job Title:** GIS Habitat Suitability Modeling for Endangered Smith’s Blue Butterfly Intern

**Organization:** Santa Lucia Conservancy
The Santa Lucia Conservancy, located in Carmel, California, is conducting novel and essential habitat restoration activities and wildlife research on the 20,000 acre Santa Lucia Preserve. As a small staff, we like to partner with invested and passionate volunteers to increase our reach at the landscape scale. We have a long track record of hosting graduate and undergraduate student interns to conduct a wide variety of activities including wildlife and stewardship research, land management, conservation monitoring and community outreach.

**Supervisors:** Christy Wyckoff, Director of Conservation Science

**Location:** The Santa Lucia Preserve, Carmel Ca.

**Dates:** 2020 April-June or Summer Semester

**Position Description:**
The Smith’s blue butterfly is a Federally protected Endangered species with a range limited to the Big Sur coast and Monterey Bay. Little is known about the dime-sized butterfly and their preferred habitats occur in rough and often inaccessible terrain. The Conservancy is developing specialized tools and models to predict, locate and map these critical habitats on the Santa Lucia Preserve. Once the model and field methods are refined results and recommended protocol will be shared with local partners and published. This project provides an opportunity to learn state of the art habitat modeling tools applicable across the conservation field, and the opportunity to contribute to a scientific publication.

Interns will apply classroom knowledge in the field to gain valuable experience in, and practical application of, applied conservation management building a resume that will advance a career in conservation with global application. This position will involve a mix of field and office work to become familiar with the Conservancy’s work. Interns will operate as a part of the Conservancy Team, with flexible week day scheduling, and opportunity to spend time on the beautiful Santa Lucia Preserve.

**Main Responsibilities/Projects:**
● Conduct GIS analysis of habitat and landscape conditions across The Preserve to identify likely locations for buckwheat (*Eriogonum spp.*) colonies. Tools will include ArcGIS and MaxEnt habitat suitability software.
● Conduct field truthing of predicted habitats using hand held Trimble and drone technologies.
● Compile data into GIS habitat map and contribute to publication on methodology and findings.

Qualifications or Special Skills:

● A positive attitude, willingness to learn, ability to follow instructions and work independently and on a team.
● High level of organizational skills.
● Experience using ArcGIS.
● Comfortable interacting with a variety of stakeholders including biologists, other volunteers, landowners, contractors, and community members.
● Must be physically fit and capable of hiking and carrying equipment over varied and steep terrain in wilderness locations
● Need to be comfortable with basic computer use for data entry in Microsoft Office and Google programs
● Experience with drone and Trimble technologies desired, but not required (opportunity for training)
● Commitment of 8-16 hours a week, minimum commitment of 3 months. Scheduling is flexible
● A personal vehicle and clean driving record are required.

Remuneration: Unpaid volunteer position, MIIS Work-study or Guided Independent Study Training
Interns will be trained and supervised as needed for various tasks and projects. Once trained, volunteers may work alone or on small teams.

Please submit a cover letter and resume to: Christy Wyckoff Director of Conservation Science Santa Lucia Conservancy cwyckoff@slconservancy.org 831-402-2001 26700 Rancho San Carlos Rd. Carmel, Ca 93923

The Santa Lucia Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) non-profit land trust incorporated in 1995 to conserve the ecological integrity of the protected lands within the Santa Lucia Preserve in Carmel, CA. We are dedicated to advancing the art and science of conservation-compatible
development through adaptive land management, conservation easement stewardship, ecological research, and environmental education programs.