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The Society for Conservation Biology and the Cedar Tree Foundation announce the recipients of the 2012 David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship

WASHINGTON – The Smith Fellowship, the nation's premier postdoctoral program in conservation biology, has been awarded to four outstanding early career scientists, the Society for Conservation Biology announced today.

An impressive pool of Ph.D. applicants from around the world competed for the two-year David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship that provides an annual salary of \$50,000 plus \$40,000 in research and travel funds to scientists conducting research on critical conservation issues in North America.

The scientists aim to bridge the gap between conservation theory and application and will conduct their research in partnership with a major academic institution and an “on the ground” conservation organization. They will also receive professional development training in a variety of areas, including communications and environmental policy.

The David H. Smith Conservation Research Fellowship class of 2012:

- **Tabitha Graves** will complete a project titled, “**Designing an integrated, adaptive, and cost-effective sampling tool for wildlife populations**” under the academic mentorship of Dr. Mevin Hooten at Colorado State University and in partnership with Dr. Gordon Stenhouse of the Foothills Research Institute.
- **David Hayman** will complete a project titled, “**Understanding White Nose Syndrome dynamics to mitigate the precipitous decline of North American bats**” under the academic mentorship of Dr. Colleen Webb at Colorado State University and Dr. Juliet Pulliam at the University of Florida and in partnership with Dr. Paul Cryan of the U.S. Geological Survey
- **Viorel Popescu** will complete a project titled, “**Estimating the cumulative impact of small hydropower on species conservation and ecosystems services**” under the academic mentorship of Dr. Chris Wilmers at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Dr. Wendy Palen at Simon Fraser University and Dr. Perry de Valpine at the University of California, Berkeley and in partnership with Dr. Mary Ruckelshaus of The Natural Capital Project and Dr. Craig Orr of Watershed Watch Salmon Society.
- **Morgan Tingley** will complete a project titled, “**Long-term trends in the avifauna of the southern Appalachians: disentangling climate change from habitat change**” under the academic mentorship of Dr. David Wilcove at Princeton University and working in partnership with Dr. Gary Langham of the National Audubon Society.

While the Fellows' research projects focus on urgent conservation issues, they also learn firsthand the challenges and rewards of conservation applications. The program's focus is to enlarge their professional

opportunities and ensure future success by helping them build relationships in the conservation and research communities and by providing opportunities for professional development through targeted workshops and training events.

The fellowship is named after the late Dr. David H. Smith, founder of the Cedar Tree Foundation, and pediatrician, inventor and conservationist. The Smith Fellowship seeks to identify and support early-career scientists who will shape the growth of applied conservation biology.

It's also an opportunity for scientists to develop solutions to critical environmental challenges, said Dr. Michael P. Dombeck, executive director of the Smith Fellows program and former chief of the United States Forest Service.

"The Smith Fellowship enables young scientists to improve and expand their research skills and direct their research efforts toward problems of pressing conservation concern, to bridge the gap between research and application," Dombeck said.

Request for proposals for the 2013 Class of Smith Fellows will be announced in June 2012. For more information see the Smith Fellows website at www.SmithFellows.org.

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SCB is an international organization of 6,000 professionals dedicated to advancing the science and practice of conserving the Earth's biological diversity (www.conbio.org) SCB seeks to provide access to the best available conservation science to inform policy decisions of major international conventions and related accords and treaties, as well as governments, and organizations interested in forests.