CMLRC Fellowships - The National Park Service provides unparalleled opportunities for research and education in some of our nation's most cherished and pristine ecosystems. The Mediterranean Coast network parks face increasingly complex issues that threaten the integrity of natural ecosystems, cultural resources, and visitor experiences. The successful management and protection of the parks' resources and values depends upon scientifically credible information. The network parks and the CMRLC support student contribution and participation in the management and protection of park resources. After extensive consideration of the many excellent project proposals submitted in response to the CMRLC March request for proposals, the CMRLC and the Santa Monica Mountains Fund have awarded three Fellowships to support student research described below.

We encourage the students not receiving awards this time to reapply when the next Fellowship opportunity is advertised. We anticipate advertising again in September or October 2008.

Laurel Klein will take a comprehensive approach to the study of disease dynamics in fragmented wildlife populations and the potentially deleterious effects of human activities including habitat fragmentation and environmental toxicants. She anticipates that the results of her work may reveal the need for increased connectivity between habitat and the implementation of wildlife corridors in SMMNRA.

Christopher Bowman- Prideaux will study the Effects of Habitat Fragmentation on the metapopulation dynamics and population characteristics of ***Astragalus brauntonii*.** His study will help measure the degree of genetic and demographic similarity between populations and indicate to what extent, if any, isolated populations acting as a metapopulation.

Lauren Willis will conduct archaeological surveys and $_{14}$C dating **associated with her** Ph.D. dissertation which focuses on Ancient Human Settlement and Land Use in Lobo Canyon, Santa Rosa Island. Her fieldwork and analyses associated with $_{14}$C dating will enhance our understanding of the chronology of human settlement in Lobo Canyon.

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