The UCLA La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science and the UC Natural Reserve System Stunt Ranch Santa Monica Mountains Reserve are pleased to announce their annual call for student research proposals. We invite undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers to consider applying for this funding opportunity. Because Stunt Ranch is now administratively a part of the La Kretz Center, we have combined these into a single call.

The La Kretz Center’s core mission is to preserve California’s biodiversity and ecosystems by supporting field and laboratory-based research projects that address underlying problems with direct management implications for conservation science. Although we do not limit the geographic scope or academic discipline of the work we fund, we are particularly interested in projects that are centered on (southern) California’s problems and their solutions. The UCNRS Stunt Ranch Reserve is a unique, 300+ acre resource available to the research community. Located in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains, Stunt Ranch offers a pristine set of habitats characteristic of southern California contained within a protected and managed reservation.

Stunt Ranch and the La Kretz Center for California Conservation Science work closely together to promote and sponsor conservation-relevant research. To learn more about Stunt Ranch, including currently funded projects, please visit http://stuntranch.ucnrs.org/ or to learn more about the La Kretz Center, visit http://www.environment.ucla.edu/lakretz/. Researchers may stay at the La Kretz Field Station (https://www.ioes.ucla.edu/santa-monica-mountains-research/), or at Stunt Ranch for very limited overnight visits.

Research may be conducted at Stunt Ranch (on any ecological problem, funded through Stunt Ranch) or across California (on a conservation-relevant problem, funded through the La Kretz Center). Conservation projects conducted at Stunt Ranch can be funded through both mechanisms, and so may have a greater chance for funding success.

We invite students and postdoctoral researchers to apply for our joint La Kretz/Stunt Ranch 2017 research funding. To apply, please submit the following:

1) A research proposal that describes the fundamental problem to be addressed, the methods that will be used, the expected data/results, and how those results will coordinate with managers, agencies, or others who will help translate results into policy. The proposal should be concise, at no more than two pages, single-spaced, including figures and literature cited.

2) A copy of your CV.

3) A brief letter of recommendation from your thesis advisor explaining why this work is timely and why this support is needed.

4) In addition, you will need to provide information for the La Kretz Center’s Website content. This includes an image of yourself, an image related to your project, and a short
biographical sketch and summary of your project that will be posted on the website. This application will be considered incomplete without this content.

Maximum budget is $4000, and we anticipate funding projects ranging from $500-$4000. Previous awardees may apply for additional support, and should include a short description of work accomplished under their previous support.

Applications for the 2017-18 academic year are due by midnight on Monday, 30 October, 2017.

Please send your research proposal and CV as a single PDF file, and have your advisor send a letter of recommendation to lakretz@ioes.ucla.edu. Any questions, please contact Gary Bucciarelli (garyb@ucla.edu).