**Smithsonian Institution Internship – the black-tailed prairie dog in Northeast Montana**

The NZCBIGreat Plains Science Program is seeking 2 interns to undertake field work on our ongoing efforts to enhance populations of black-tailed prairie dogs and the endangered black-footed ferret.

The interns will assist with research projects designed to understand the impacts of plague mitigation on black-tailed prairie dogs and their habitat and integrate advanced technological solutions into research, management, and conservation efforts for prairie dogs and black-footed ferrets. Results from this study will inform plague mitigation strategies aimed at conserving populations of prairie dogs. This is a collaborative effort with contributions from several partner organizations and agencies.

The internship will take place primarily in Northeast Montana. Travel to Colorado may be requested.

**Primary responsibilities:**

* Build experience with wildlife research tasks, including efforts to live-trap prairie dogs, collect fecal samples, sample insects, conduct vegetation surveys, delineate borders of black-tailed prairie dog colonies, and evaluate prairie dog densities
* May also help with nighttime spotlight surveys to detect and live-trap black-footed ferrets
* Perform basic data entry and organization tasks
* Handling lab samples
* Annotate drone imagery collected from prairie dog colonies.
* Maintaining and organizing survey equipment.

The intern will work closely with a team of research ecologists, Ph.D. students, and contractors.

**Qualification:**

* Bachelor's degree (or about to complete the degree by the end of spring 2025) in Biology/Ecology or any related field
* Ability to work long days in remote field settings while exposed to high heat, biting insects, and difficult road conditions
* Willing to work nights for several consecutive days
* Valid U.S. driver’s license
* Applicants must be physically fit
* Ability to follow established field protocols
* Ability to work independently and as part of a team
* Ability to live in shared housing with other interns and researcher

Free housing will be provided at no cost at a remote field station set in a beautiful prairie habitat surrounded by abundant wildlife.

**Dates:**  May 26, 2025 to October 10, 2025

**Compensation: $2,000.00 per month**

**Application Process:**

Interested applicants should submit a resume and a brief cover letter describing their interest in the position with the subject line “Prairie dog internship”, to Jesse Boulerice ([BoulericeJT@si.edu](mailto:BoulericeJT@si.edu)) by 02/15/2025.