



**2026 OREN POLLAK MEMORIAL
STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT FOR GRASSLAND SCIENCE
Request for Proposals**

The Oren Pollak Memorial Student Research Fund was established in 2000 in memory of Dr. Oren Pollak, a leading grassland ecologist and restoration pioneer, as well as an ardent champion and mentor for grassland ecology students. As The Nature Conservancy's lead ecologist in California in the early 1990s, Dr. Pollak established the grassland research program that continues today. He later became Director of Science in the Conservancy's Oregon Chapter. Since 2000, the Pollak Fund has granted more than \$170,000 in grasslands research funding for student scientists.

The Nature Conservancy will be granting up to \$20,000 for assistance to two or three student grantees to conduct research on grasslands in California or Oregon. Preference will be given to projects explicitly focused on grasslands and relevant to TNC's conservation efforts in California or Oregon.

Proposed projects may include, but are not restricted to, research on grassland management practices (e.g., restoration, grazing), habitat value for rare and threatened species, and community ecology. Studies conducted on TNC preserves and coordination with TNC preserve managers is desirable but not mandatory.

Requests for amounts between \$5,000 and \$15,000 will be considered.

Any undergraduate or graduate student needing assistance for the implementation of a grassland research project may apply. To apply, send a project prospectus that includes:

- Title of the project
- Your name and contact information
- Who the project will be supervised by
- Project Summary, including the project's proposed contribution to conservation. Why this research and why is it needed now?
- Summary of the proposed methods
- Timeline for project completion
- Budget

The project prospectus should be no longer than 2 pages, including maps and figures and must be received by **February 6, 2026**. Notification of the award recipient will occur by March 2, 2026. Grant funds must be spent within 15 months of the award, and the recipient must submit a brief progress report at that time, summarizing the work completed and how the funds were spent.

Please email the proposal (include "OREN POLLAK RESEARCH GRANTS" in subject line) in Microsoft Word format to Aubrey Erwin aubrey.erwin@TNC.ORG. Questions can also go to Aubrey.