

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

INTERN PROGRAM REQUEST

EMPLOYER: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

CONTACT PERSON'S NAME/TITLE: Jarrett Payne/Plant Ecologist

ADDRESS: 730 North Montana Street

CITY: Dillon

STATE: Montana

ZIP: 59725

PHONE: 406-560-7103

EMAIL ADDRESS: Jarrett.Payne@mt.gov

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT: Friday, January 5, 2024

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM (postmarked)

****STUDENTS MUST BE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE****

POSITION TITLE: Wildlife Habitat Plant Technician

OF POSITIONS: 1

LOCATION(S): Dillon

WORK START/END DATES: May 20th, 2024/August 16th, 2024

HOURS/WEEK: 40 **TOTAL HOURS FOR INTERNSHIP:** 520

TRAINING/ORIENTATION DATES: May 20th, 2024

HOURLY PAY: \$13.00

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION/RESOURCES:

Housing provided

If yes, please list type of housing available: *The supervisor for this intern position is providing a furnished room in Dillon, MT during the duration of the position at no charge.*

Vehicle provided

Per Diem

Other (please explain):

POSITION DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK:

This intern position will assist with wildlife habitat monitoring on rangelands, riparian/wetland areas, and forested habitat types throughout Montana. The intern will be based in Dillon, MT. The position's work will mostly take place on Wildlife Management Areas (WMA; n = 70 and ~ 450,000 acres in total) that are

administered by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP). Specifically, this intern position will work directly with the MFWP Plant Ecologist on habitat monitoring that evaluates prescribed habitat treatments (e.g., fire, grazing, conifer thinning, etc.) for wildlife habitat enhancement on WMAs. Habitat monitoring will use nationally recognized monitoring techniques to measure plant abundances at the species level and ecological health conditions.

This intern position will be expected to travel extensively throughout MT (travel will be provided by MFWP) for the duration of the summer. Most work weeks will require 2 - 4 days of camping in rural areas. Some WMAs do have cabins available for these overnight trips, but often tent camping is necessary. Most of the habitat monitoring will be focused on upland conditions, but riparian and wetland habitat monitoring will occur. Interns will also be exposed to and work with wildlife biologists and habitat biologists based throughout MT that manage WMAs. This position will allow for opportunities to learn directly from wildlife professionals and pursue a future career with FWP or other natural resource agencies.

SKILLS, ABILITIES, KNOWLEDGE NEEDED (EDUCATION; UNDERGRAD/GRAD LEVEL, SUGGESTED/REQUIRED MAJORS):

This intern position requires a broad set of skills and abilities; however, the most important skillsets needed for this position are a strong desire to learn, adaptability, and completing tasks reliably. This intern position is available for college students completing their bachelors in wildlife habitat ecology and management, rangeland ecology and management, or similar field of study. A strong background in plant identification, photo monitoring, data management/organization, wildlife habitat ecology and management, and rangeland/riparian monitoring techniques is desired. Training will be provided as needed and work tasks will be set to reasonable levels of the intern's abilities.

Long workdays will be very common (10+ hours of field work) while completing habitat monitoring in the field. In addition, the intern will need to be prepared for physically demanding days. It is common to hike 3 – 10 miles daily with a 20lb backpack to reach monitoring sites. Good hiking boots and water footwear are necessary. Weather conditions will likely vary from 30 - 95° F that may also include varying levels of wind and/or rain/snow conditions. In addition, many evenings will end with camping at a basecamp. A strong, resilient nature is recommended for this intern position.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Resume
- Cover Letter
- References

Other (please specify):

SEND APPLICATION MATERIALS TO: Jarrett.Payne@mt.gov

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This is an extremely unique and rewarding intern position that will expose the successful applicant to the "ins-and-outs" of wildlife habitat monitoring and direction to pursue a career in this field. This position will likely visit over 30 WMAs across Montana during the summer of 2024. Few other intern positions offer this level of travel and exposure to Montana's rich and diverse habitats and landscapes while completing important habitat monitoring to inform wildlife management.

The position will be based in Dillon, MT with free lodging available. Dillon offers a rich diversity of recreational values from blue ribbon fishing, hiking, or viewing historical sites. In addition, this intern position will also be exposed to a unique work environment where the intern will be working with other MFWP staff (wildlife, fisheries, enforcement, etc.) and other interns at the Dillon Field Office and across the state of Montana.