



**Are you interested in a summer**

**training position with a federal government position?**

**The US Fish & Wildlife Service has several new summer internships available through The Environmental Careers Organization (ECO). Read on for a brief description of each position. If you are available for a 12 week internship this summer and have interest in a particular area, please respond by email with your resume and cover letter to apply for the positions.**

**All positions are \$400 per week stipend, with \$300 relocation assistance. In addition, \$1,000 is available where housing is not provided.**

**US Fish and Wildlife Service, Northeast Regional Office (FWS)  
The Environmental Careers Organization (ECO)  
2004 Conservation Careers Diversity Internship Program  
Project Description Form**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Position Location:**

**POSITION #!: Patuxent Research Refuge  
Laurel, MD**

Preferred Summer 2004 Start Date for a 12 week project: ~ **June 1, 2004**

Weekly Stipend : \$400/week

Location of Project: Laurel, MD

**INTERN HOUSING PROVIDED?**

Yes

**INTERNSHIP PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

a. Background: Provide support for the Refuge's public use and wildlife management programs, focusing on environmental education, visitor services, public outreach, volunteer program assistance, invasive species inventory and monitoring, wildlife surveys and other natural resource management projects.

b. Objectives: Enhance the Refuge's ability to accomplish priority workloads by providing staffing depth during the peak public use season of May through August. Provide a supplemental source of labor to assist the permanent staff in completing seasonal field work of various types. Provide an in-depth learning experience for a student interested in a career in outdoor recreation management and/or natural resource management.

c. Specific Tasks: Plan, organize and deliver environmental education programs for school and other groups, and interpretive programs for the general public. Assist with planning special events. Assist with volunteer program management. Serve as interpreter for electric tram rides for the visiting public. Perform various wildlife and vegetative monitoring and survey work.

d. Expected Results: Enhanced visitor services, staffing depth, and back-up during the peak visitor use season, ensuring a safe, enjoyable and educational experience for all Refuge visitors. The intern's expertise and labor will contribute to an increased ability to not only accomplish public use initiatives, but will assist in completing a substantial natural resource management project workload.

e. Benefits to Intern: Experience in outdoor recreation and natural resource management on a highly complex, biologically diverse, high visitation urban Refuge; the opportunity to learn and grow professionally; exposure to the USFWS as a potential employer; insight into career avenues in public land management. The intern will gain an understanding of the “big picture” of larger landscape, ecosystem and watershed management opportunities, issues, and concerns.

#### **INTERN EDUCATION LEVEL, SKILL, AND INTERESTS**

a. Matriculation Levels: Intern can be an undergraduate freshmen, sophomore, or junior with graduation date of no sooner than December, 2005 with preferred major in Outdoor Recreation Management, Parks and Recreation Management, Natural Resource Management, Wildlife Biology or similar disciplines. Candidates should possess good “People skills” and an ability to work with the general public, interest groups and Refuge partners.

b. Interests: The selected student should have a strong interest in pursuing a career in outdoor recreation management or some area of natural resource management. The ideal candidate would demonstrate a mix of interests, with a background that shows the ability to work with diverse publics in a natural resource setting, as well as the interest, knowledge and abilities necessary to perform biological and public use field work.

c. Skills: The selected student must have the ability to work well with the public, be comfortable with public speaking, be flexible and able to work in a team-oriented organization. (S)he must be able to perform physical labor outdoors, under sometimes arduous weather conditions. Should show work experiences and/or successful course work that includes a mix of natural resource management, wildlife biology, and outdoor recreation management-related classes. Must be able to produce high quality written environmental education products, and should have good computer skills.

#### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Patuxent Research Refuge, established in 1936, is one of more than 540 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System. It is an important link in the chain of Refuges along the Atlantic Flyway. There is a permanent staff of 22. The Refuge is located halfway between Baltimore, MD and Washington, DC, and encompasses more than 12,700 acres, and contains one of the largest contiguous blocks of hardwood forest in the mid-Atlantic Coastal Plain. Meadows and impoundments are interspersed throughout the general forest habitat, providing habitat diversity. Patuxent is home to a 40,000 square foot visitor center, one of the largest in the Refuge System. Public use is seasonally intense, with annual visitation over 100,000, much of which occurs during the months of May through September.

Much of the public use workload is devoted to environmental education and interpretive program delivery, special events and special uses, and public outreach.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

a. Transportation: **The intern will need to provide their own transportation to and from their residence. There is no public transportation to the Refuge or its vicinity. Available seasonal housing is a 5 minute drive from the Refuge’s National Wildlife Visitor Center, which is the duty station.**

b. Dress: The selected intern will be provided with FWS volunteer logo polo shirt, cap and name tag to make them identifiable to the public as part of the Refuge staff. Other clothing and grooming should present a neat and professional appearance, with obvious exceptions for certain types of field work, where long sleeved shirts and long pants are recommended to prevent tick and other insect bites, and to protect against other injury through contact with brush or poison ivy.

c. Safety: Personal protective equipment, such as safety goggles and work gloves, will be provided, as will insect repellants. A formal safety orientation will be provided to the selected intern upon hire.

d. Work Hours: The selected intern can be expected to work 40 hours per week, including weekends and summer holidays. Early morning or evening work may be required.

### **POSTION #2: National Wild Fish Health Survey**

The position involves two on-going projects for this season. The first is the National Wild Fish Health Survey (NWFHS) which involves collecting, dissection, and testing fish from all around California and Nevada for the major pathogens that infect freshwater fish species. We perform bacteriology (growth and identification of bacteria), virology (using tissue culture and PCR techniques to confirm identification) and parasitology (processing and testing for pathogens such as the

parasite that causes Whirling Disease). The NWFHS will involve travel and field work (electrofishing, beach seining or working with partners) about 20% of the time.

The lab work will be the primary duties; 40-60% of the work. We will provide training in all aspects of the laboratory work, but would like an individual who is familiar with a lab environment (ie has prepared solutions, used balances, pipettes, etc). Aseptic technique is also important in several assays, and the ability to follow a written protocol once training has been provided.

### **Position #3: National Website on Fish Health**

The second project involves the development of a national website to provide technical information in fish health to our partners (state, tribal and the public). I will be leading this project, but will need someone to assist me with research of fish pathogens (literature review and internet searches), organization and collation of data sets and studies, and database entry. An individual will need fairly good computer skills and familiarity with MS Word, Excel and Access or other database formats. The website project will vary from approximately 20-40% of the workload.

2. Qualifications needed to be successful include a good grasp of biology and biological principles used in a clinical laboratory (i.e., asepsis, organizational skills to manage biological processing and workload, and good documentation of test results). Some laboratory experience would be helpful to the individual's success and broaden the types of assays and procedures they will be able to perform. Computer skills are needed for both the laboratory work and the website project. Because the internship is short and training opportunities are limited, an individual with a strong desire to learn and personal ethics of responsibility for completing quality work in a timely manner are important attributes. Past experience has shown that individuals with these characteristics gain a wealth of knowledge and find the combination of field and laboratory work to be a diverse and challenging learning experience.

3. The laboratory is located in Northern California, about 2 hrs south of the Oregon border and 2 hrs north of Sacramento. The Fish Health Center is co-located with the Coleman National Fish Hatchery and consists of two buildings that house a fully-functional fish pathology laboratory and a separate office/admin space. The Center is located 10 miles from the small town of Anderson (~30K) and 20 miles from the main city of Redding (~100K). A student would need transportation to work and should plan on a 20 minute commute through a rural agricultural area. Affordable housing and apartments are available in Cottonwood, Anderson and Redding. The climate in the Central Valley of California is similar to Arizona in that summer temperatures are quite hot (90-105 degrees) but with very low humidity. Air conditioning in both your vehicle and housing are generally considered mandatory. While the valley can be quite warm, the surrounding area is mountainous and offers a lot of recreational opportunities (camping/hiking, watersports, etc.) We are surrounded by the Trinity Alps (2hrs) and the Pacific Ocean (3.5hrs) to the West, Lake Shasta and Mount Shasta (.5-1hr) to the North, and Mt. Lassen and the Sierra Nevada mountains (1-2hrs) to the East. Further out are Reno, Nevada at about a 3.5 hr drive, Ashland, Oregon 2 hrs North (home of the Shakespeare Festival in summer) , and San Francisco is 3.5 hrs SW.

4. To prepare for a phone interview, be prepared to discuss your education and experience in the biological sciences. Your laboratory knowledge and/or skills. And your expectations and educational goals for the internship. I also like to hear anything personal that you may want to share regarding your long-term goals, your personal interests and your preferred learning style.

5. My preferred start date is June 7th - August 27th. If this poses a problem for returning students in the Fall, I would be willing to be flexible in the last week of the internship to allow some travel days back to home/school.

#### **Contact:**

**Interested applicants need to send their resume to Kristie King, ECO Diversity Manager at [kristiek@eco.org](mailto:kristiek@eco.org) or fax to 215.493.5321. Phone - 215.493.5320**

**DEADLINE ASAP – POSITIONS BEGIN 1<sup>ST</sup> or 2<sup>ND</sup> WEEK OF JUNE!**