Atkinson Summer 2015 Intern, Habitat Exchange Ecosystems/Working Lands

With world attention focused on both the environment and the economy, Environmental Defense Fund is where policymakers and business leaders turn for win-win solutions. This leading green group, founded in 1967, has tripled in size over the past decade by focusing on strong science, uncommon partnerships and market-based approaches.

Are you interested in exploring a career at an internationally-recognized environmental organization? By joining EDF as a summer intern, you too can be part of a vibrant workplace that welcomes diverse perspectives, talents and contributions, where innovation and a focus on results are a way of life. EDF’s Internship Program welcomes intellectually hungry leaders to join us, advance our work, and cultivate the skills and relationships needed for a successful career working for the environment. Alumni of our Internship Program have gone on to important leadership positions, most notably our own President, Fred Krupp. Could you be the next Fred Krupp?

Overall Function

EDF offers internships for students and recent graduates in a variety of programs and departments throughout the organization. Our internships typically run for 10 weeks during the summer. The ultimate goal of our internship program is to provide high-quality experiences (including relevant projects and opportunities for networking) that form the foundation for any individual who is serious about an environmental career.

Position Description

- Roughly half of all species listed as threatened or endangered in the U.S. have at least 80% of their habitat on privately-owned lands, much of which is in agriculture, and the management of these “working lands” that produce food, fuel, and fiber will have a strong bearing on the fate of declining species. The Intern will be working alongside science and policy analysts on our national Habitat Exchange team to provide technical support for the development and advancement of habitat conservation programs that engage private landowners in habitat conservation on U.S. working lands. Through the Habitat Exchange program, we are seeking to develop outcomes-based conservation and mitigation programs that engage landowners in improving and protecting habitat to offset impacts of energy and infrastructure development, with net benefit to impacted species.

  - Successful candidate will have a strong background in wildlife ecology, conservation biology, natural resource management, and an interest in applying science to advancing national conservation policy.
  - In addition to working closely with staff scientists, we will identify opportunities to actively engage with conservation professionals from other NGO’s, agencies, and academia through our Technical Advisory Committees. The intern will be based in Washington, DC which offers the opportunity to engage with federal policy and national communications staff and attend seminars, hearings, and more at research and government institutions. They will also have the opportunity to interact remotely with staff and colleagues in our western offices (e.g. Colorado and California) working in a variety of ecosystems, from sagebrush to grasslands and large river floodplains.
  - Based on the intern’s individual interests and skills, we will tailor the internship deliverables to produce discrete portions of science manuscripts, presentations, literature reviews, communications materials, and/or metrics for evaluating conservation outcomes.

- Location: Washington, D.C.
- Direct Work Supervisor Name: Stacy Small-Lorenz
- Direct Work Supervisor Title: Senior Scientist, Ecosystems
Key Responsibilities

Tasks may include but are not be limited to:
- Background research into species conservation needs for birds, bats and/or aquatic species
- Work with staff scientists and policy analysts to draft portions of scientific manuscript(s) describing habitat quantification tools in development by EDF and colleagues
- Synthesize and help respond to reviewer comments on Habitat Exchange documentation
- Provide research support to the science team in Habitat Quantification Tool development
- Develop science communications materials and presentation, apropos to Habitat Exchange
- Contribute to monitoring and evaluation protocols for EDF’s habitat conservation work

Qualifications

- Undergraduate or graduate student with demonstrated interest in and knowledge of conservation biology, ecology, and/or natural resource management.
- Coursework in wildlife biology, ecology, and/or conservation biology/policy.
- Experience with thinking through and communicating about complex conservation issues
- Highly proficient in accessing and synthesizing scientific literature, Internet-based research, basic Microsoft Office software, other computer skills as relevant.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Must be well organized, motivated, and detail-oriented.
- Ability to multi-task, prioritize and meet deadlines.
- Ability to work in a team setting and have the ability to work independently when projects are due.
- Demonstrate initiative and problem solving skills.

Term

- 10 weeks during the summer.
- The position is full-time (35 hours/week).
- Location: Washington, DC

Compensation

- Compensation is $5,000 for the summer term.

Due to the volume of employment applications and queries received, EDF is unable to respond to each application individually. Applicants will be contacted directly if selected as a candidate.

Environmental Defense Fund is an Equal Opportunity Employer