Atkinson Summer 2015 Intern, Habitat Exchanges
Ecosystems Program

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

The Habitat Exchange Economics Intern will support EDF’s work to design and promote Habitat Exchanges as a key tool for creating economic incentives to recover species and restore declining habitat. The selected individual will work closely with the Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Exchange Team and EDF’s economic specialists to research and analyze the supply and demand for Habitat Exchanges. The intern will deliver research on the supply (credits produced primarily by agricultural producers) and demand (from impacts created by development, primarily energy development) for Habitat Exchanges with a focus on greater sage-grouse.

A sophisticated understanding of economic valuation is required. Because market dynamics are driven by geography, land and habitat value, experience in geospatial analysis would be an asset. The intern will deliver a research report on the market dynamics of Greater Sage-grouse Habitat Exchanges as well as contribute to the economic understanding of conservation tools used in Habitat Exchanges such as dynamic offset credits.

For more information on Habitat Exchanges, visit: http://www.habitatexchanges.org/

- Location: Washington, D.C.
- Direct Supervisor Name: Sara Brodnax
- Direct Supervisor Title: Manager, Habitat Markets

Key Responsibilities:

Tasks will include but are not be limited to:

- Conduct relevant analysis and research into the supply and demand for Habitat Exchange credits with a focus on greater sage-grouse
- Work with the Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Exchange team to develop the understanding of innovative Exchange concepts including dynamic offset credits from the economic perspective
- Synthesize results into a report and supporting presentation
- Provide support to the Habitat Markets Manager, Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Exchange team and EDF economists on these issues
Qualifications

- Undergraduate concentration or relevant coursework in economics and natural resource valuation; graduate degree candidates preferred
- Experience and interest in economic analysis of market dynamics
- Knowledge of ecosystem service markets, habitat, agricultural and/or energy issues a plus
- Proficiency in geospatial analysis desirable
- 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).

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