

GRASSLAND ECOLOGY INTERNSHIP

Montana Audubon is working with the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) and [American Prairie Reserve](#) to hire two grassland ecology interns for the 2018 field season. These are paid research/public outreach positions that will take place on American Prairie Reserve lands in northeastern Montana. This is a great opportunity to learn about and study the birds and ecology of Montana's prairie grasslands in a region of critical environmental concern.

This internship opportunity with grassland and wildlife ecology projects at the American Prairie Reserve (APR) in Northeastern Montana (www.americanprairie.org) offers a number of unique learning experiences including camera trap surveys of mammal communities in grassland and prairie dog colonies, vegetation surveys in pastures that differ grazers (cattle, bison, no large ungulate), bird surveys in spring and early summer, and mapping prairie dog colonies and assessing their densities. In addition the intern would assist staff in outreach and education events that convey conservation science to the general public. The intern will support staff activities associated with these ecology projects and play a significant role for the advancement of conservation science at SCBI and APR. Training for internship tasks is provided.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES/DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This is a paid internship opportunity wherein the intern will support the Conservation Ecology Center-Forest Ecology. Through this internship, interns will:

- Learn to place and maintain camera traps for wildlife surveys.
- Learn to apply methods for vegetation survey and mapping protocols.
- Learn to identify plants and gain specific knowledge on grassland species of the western U.S.
- Learn to identify grassland birds (in spring season)
- Learn to compile ecology data in standard formats.
- Learn to review collected field data (data quality control)
- Learn to coordinate with field team to execute assigned tasks
- Learn to delegate tasks within field team, therefore reinforcing their leadership skills
- Learn to discuss APR/SCBI ecology projects and be able to present it to different audiences
- Learn techniques of operating new equipment and procedures related to the projects
- Learn to organize, in conjunction with supervisor, weekly activities to achieve primary goals.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Preference will be given to undergraduate or graduate students pursuing a career in a related field, but recent graduates accepted.
- Knowledge and experience with wildlife surveys
- Valid driver's license and experience in off-road driving a plus.
- Strong communication skills
- Ability to engage within a team environment with staff and other interns and volunteers

- Must enjoy being outdoors in all weather conditions

STIPEND

This internship has a stipend of \$1200-\$1500 per month depending on qualifications. College credit is offered if desired; intern is responsible for obtaining necessary approvals from their university. Intern will be responsible for all transportation costs to Montana and during and personal health insurance.

LOCATION

American Prairie Reserve in Northeastern Montana (nearest town Malta, Montana)

HOUSING

The intern will be housed at research center on site. Highly recommend intern owns a vehicle for personal use. Interns responsible for purchase of their own food.

TERM OF APPOINTMENT

May 13 - November 15, but shorter appointments during this period will be considered depending upon number of qualified applicants. Interns must be available 40 hours a week but flex schedule (such as 10 days on and 4 days off) is possible.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Open until filled.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please send your resume and cover letter to Amy Seaman: aseaman@mtaudubon.org.

Application information should include:

- Basic personal information
- Professional resume or CV
- A one-page statement of your interest in pursuing this position. The statement should mention relevant experience, career goals, **your reasons for wanting this internship, and what you hope to gain from the experience.** Your statement is very important during application evaluations
- College or university and current academic status
- Degrees held or expected
- Contact information for Two reference (One must be from a current or a former supervisor)
- Schedule of availability

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please direct any questions to Amy Seaman at aseaman@mtaudubon.org