Internship Title: Deerfield Wind Black Bear Study Intern

Internship Site: Searsburg, VT and the VFWD Springfield District Office

Description: This intern will assist Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) staff with data collection for the Deerfield Wind Black Bear Study. This study is evaluating the impacts of an industrial wind facility on black bear habitat use in southern Vermont. Data is being collected from black bears fitted with GPS satellite collars and by remote wildlife cameras.

The intern will assist biologists with capturing black bears. This will involve monitoring bait, maintaining trap sites, and processing captured animals. This may also involve working with contracted houndsmen and trained bear hounds to capture study animals. Capture work is focused around the towns of Searsburg and Readsboro, Vermont. Due to the unpredictable nature of this work, daily schedules may not always follow a traditional 8 am – 4 pm structure. No on-site housing is provided and the intern will be responsible for getting to the study area; however, there may be opportunities to carpool with VFWD and U.S. Forest Service staff depending on where the intern is traveling from. There are also camping options within the study area. Capture work typically lasts for at least four weeks.

The intern will assist VFWD staff with collecting data from remote wildlife cameras that are used to assess the presence of black bears and other wildlife species within the Deerfield Wind project area. The intern will spend some time working at the Springfield District office conducting data entry associated with camera data.

The intern may also assist VFWD staff with mapping habitat types within the study area.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: Applicants should be working towards a Wildlife and Fisheries Biology degree or a similar degree in the natural resources or biological sciences fields. Applicants must be physically fit. Work duties will require walking long distances while carrying equipment, often on minimally maintained trails. Applicants must be willing to spend long hours outdoors in all types of conditions (rain, sun, heat, insects). Applicants must have a positive attitude and strong interest in pursuing a career in wildlife management/conservation.

*Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required.*

Supervision: The intern will conduct all field work with at least one VFWD staff member. VFWD staff will also be present to supervise any office work done by the intern.

Start and End Dates: May 15 to July 31, but dates are negotiable.

Total Hours: 20 hours/week, 12 weeks
Compensation: $12.50/hour.

How to apply: Follow step by step application instructions which are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website. This will include logging into the CEMS-RSENR Internship, Co-Op, Research System and submitting the following (as pdfs whenever possible) by midnight, Sunday, January 29th 2017:

a. Resume
b. Cover Letter - You should upload and submit unique cover letters for each position to which you’re applying
c. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, please provide list of the positions in rank order.
d. Reference(s) – Provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference (this could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc.)
e. Transcript – Login to your my uvm portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received save it as a pdf and upload.
f. A recommendation form, completed by a faculty member or teaching assistant, will also need to be submitted on your behalf. Please send this link to the faculty member/teaching assistant when you ask if they are willing to complete the recommendation form for you. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially uploaded to your application(s).