Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2016

Internship Title: Vermont Monitoring Cooperative Summer Field Intern

Internship Site: Burlington, Mount Mansfield, Lye Brook Wilderness and other locations around Vermont

Description: Intern will train (as part of a team of interns) with Vermont State Forest Parks and Recreation and USFS Green Mountain National Forest staff to inventory and assess forest plots as part of a statewide forest health monitoring program. Interns will work closely with forest health professionals to establish monitoring plots, quantify stand composition and structure, assess canopy condition, collect hemispherical photos for digital assessments of crown closure, and conduct regeneration and understory assessments.

After training, interns will be expected to work independently to plan daily trips, maintain equipment, interface with landowners, conduct field work, utilize and enter data into the VMC database, as well as develop and contribute content to VMC social media outlets.

After all plots have been measured, interns will be expected to conduct a summary analysis and quality assurance assessment of the data for the year. This could include simple descriptive metrics of plot measurements, or more complex statistical analyses to compare methodologies, species or locations. The intern’s final report on the measurements collected will be published to the VMC web site at the end of the season and promoted at the VMC Annual Conference in December.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework: Because of the nature of this field work, interns must be comfortable in the field and capable of hiking long distances over rough terrain. Some nights may require camping overnight to minimize travel time to clusters of distant plots. There may be days requiring travel where interns will be expected to work 10+ hours (when daylight allows).

Successful applicants must be knowledgeable of the common tree species in our area. This can be demonstrated by having completed the NR21 dendrology course. Because plots are unmarked, comfort with GPS navigation is also required. Exposure to additional forest inventory sampling techniques (hypsometers, d-tapes, prisms, etc.) are preferred but not required.

As with any research study, attention to detail and a willingness to raise questions or concerns are imperative. Because this field crew will work independently for much of the internship, successful applicants must also demonstrate a high level of maturity, responsibility and attention to safety standards.

Because of the nature of this work, it is likely that work weeks will consist of four 10 hour days.

*Rubenstein students currently in their first year, sophomore and junior year are eligible to apply.*
**Supervision:** Interns will work closely with Jim Duncan (VMC database coordinator), Jennifer Pontius (RSENR faculty) and Sandy Wilmot (VT FPR) for the first several weeks of the internship. After this initial training period, interns will be expected to continue field work independently, reporting back to supervisors at the end of each week.

**Start and End Dates:** June 13 - August 19, 2016 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

**Total Hours:** 40 hours/week for 10 weeks

**Compensation:** $10-13/hour commensurate with skills & experience. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein School Internship Program is required.

**How to apply:** Step by step application instructions are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website. Applications are due by 4pm, Friday, January 29th, 2016 through Blackboard.