Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
University of Vermont
Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2019

Internship Title: Deerfield Wind Black Bear Study Intern

Internship Site: Searsburg/Readsboro, VT

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 collected from GPS satellite collars worn by black bears and by remote wildlife cameras.

Field Work: Searsburg/Readsboro, VT (all field work will be done with VFWD and/or USFS staff)

The intern will assist biologists with capturing black bears. This will involve monitoring bait sites, 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. The majority of this work typically takes place from late May through June, but often extends into early July. During this period, there will be the opportunity to work approximately 40 hours/week.

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 may also assist VFWD staff with addressing human-bear conflicts within the study area as needed. The intern will join biologists and game wardens during visits with people who are experiencing conflicts with bears. Most of this work will involve providing information about black bear behavior along with techniques to secure common bear attractants. In some cases, this may also involve capturing bears and applying hazing techniques.

Office Work: Springfield, VT

The intern will assist with equipment maintenance and data entry (Microsoft Excel and Access). The intern will be trained to use a database designed for the management and analysis of camera trap data. They will gain experience interpreting wildlife photo data.

No on-site housing is available; however, interns are able to camp at nearby state parks in exchange for providing outreach to campers on black bears. Vermont state parks have running water, bathrooms, and showers. There are also more primitive camping opportunities within the Green Mountain National Forest.

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 and able to walk long distances over uneven ground. Work duties will require walking long distances while carrying equipment, often on minimally maintained trails and sometimes off-trail. 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. Applicants should have a vehicle or some way to get to and from the study area. Preference will be given to students able to begin work by late May and not enrolled in summer courses such as WFB 131 and WFB 150. Preference will also be given to students with camping experience.

Supervision: Jaclyn Comeau

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2019 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: 16-40 hours/week, 10-12 weeks for a total of 240 hours

Compensation: $12.50/hour

*Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by May 2019 are eligible to apply. Rubenstein students can apply for up to 3 Perennial Internships. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program will be required.*

How to apply:

1. Click the following link to view the Rubenstein Perennial Internships in Handshake (https://uvm.joinhandshake.com/employers/226837)
   a. If asked to log in: click “UVM Net ID Login” & login
   b. Click the Favorite button to enable easier searches in the future
2. Click “View All Jobs” in Jobs at Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program box on right side of page
3. You should now see the great Perennial internship opportunities! Click “View Details” to learn more about each position.
   a. Please do take the time to read through each individual description so that you don’t miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title
   b. You may apply for up to three Perennial Internships
   c. All applications are due by midnight, Wednesday, January 30th, 2019
4. You’ll need to upload all required documents in Handshake in order to apply for any Perennial Internship:
   a. Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
   b. Select Documents
5. Please upload documents as pdfs whenever possible. The following are required documents:
   i. Resume
ii. Cover Letter - You should write & upload unique cover letters for each position to which you’re applying

iii. Transcript - Login to your uvm portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received save it as a pdf and upload

iv. Other Required Documents - Reference(s) & Position Ranking - in one document, please include & upload:

1. 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

2. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, provide a list of the positions in rank order

6. In addition to the documents you’ll submit, a recommendation form needs to be completed by a Rubenstein faculty, graduate student or staff member of your choosing. Please provide your recommender this link to the recommendation form when you ask if they are willing to complete the form to support your application.

   a. Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you’re applying for. This recommendation form needs to be completed by the January 30th deadline.

   b. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially added to your application(s).

7. Make sure that your resume and cover letter(s) are as strong as they can be! Utilize the resources around you:

   a. The Rubenstein Stewards are great at reviewing resumes/cover letters and providing helpful feedback – stop by Aiken 219.

   b. Stop by Anna Smiles-Becker’s (Rubenstein Career Counselor & Internship Coordinator) office (Aiken 220G) to sign up for a resume/cover letter review appointment.

   c. Visit the The Hub, 1st Floor Davis Center Mondays-Thursdays 10am-5pm, Fridays 10am-3pm.

8. A team of Rubenstein faculty and staff will be reviewing all submitted applications and forwarding materials onto each Perennial site. If you are selected to interview for a Perennial Internship, you will be contacted by the site to set up an interview during early-mid March.