Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources
University of Vermont
Perennia Summer Internship Program – 2020

**Internship Title:** Intern, Wildlife Trade

**Internship Site:** WWF-US office in Washington, DC

**Description:**

WWF is the world’s largest and most respected independent conservation organization, with over six million supporters and a global network active in over 120 countries. WWF’s mission is to stop the degradation of the earth’s natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.

As the human population grows, so does the demand for wildlife. Increased globalization, connectivity and disposable incomes have only exacerbated human desire for and consumption of wildlife and their products. Though most of the trade is legal and a good proportion is sustainable, there is mounting evidence of unsustainable and illegal sourcing and trade. In recent years, research on illegal and unsustainable wildlife trade has been largely focused on the African and Asian continents. Although it is commonly stated that the U.S. is the second largest wildlife market after China, the role of the U.S. market and its impacts on both domestic and exotic species have not yet been fully assessed. TRAFFIC-US and WWF are completing an assessment that will gather and synthesize information and analyses of the scope and scale of illegal wildlife trade in the U.S. and its linkages to external illegal markets.

This internship would be focused on supporting our priority project on determining the state of illegal trade in the U.S. This assessment will examine illegal wildlife trade (both live and products/derivatives) from a country-level lens to capture trends and trafficking routes by focusing on a national demand for exotic and native species, international demand for U.S. species, and transport hubs of interest. The intern will assist with data collection, analysis, and general assistance to our team conducting this project.

**Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:**

- Understanding of US environmental policies, such as Endangered Species Act and Lacey Act;
- Knowledge of conservation biology, ornithology, herpetology, mammalogy, a plus;
- Some knowledge of CITES and wildlife trade;
- Passionate about wildlife conservation, particularly wildlife trade;
- Proficiency with Microsoft Office programs, specifically Excel, and internet-based research;
- Excellent communication, organizational and time management skills;
- Ability to work independently and multi-task effectively;
• Willingness to learn;
• Positive attitude and a sense of humor

Eligibility: Rubenstein students who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by May 2020 are eligible to apply. Students graduating May 2020 are not eligible to apply.

Supervision: Robin Sawyer, Senior Program Officer, TRAFFIC (robin.sawyer@wwfus.org)

Start and End Dates: Mid-May – Mid-August, 2020 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours: 35 hours/week, 12 weeks

Compensation: $12.50/hour

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 11:59pm, Wednesday, January 29th, 2020.

4. You’ll need to upload all required documents in Handshake before you can 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. The following are required documents:

   i. Resume.

   ii. Cover Letter - You should write & upload unique cover letters for each position to which you are applying to.
iii. 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.

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. The person listed should NOT be the person also completing your recommendation form.

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 will need to submit, a recommendation form completed by a Rubenstein faculty, graduate student or staff member of your choosing. When you ask your recommender if they are willing to complete the form to support your application, please provide your recommender this link to the recommendation form.

   a. Only one recommendation form needs to be completed regardless of how many Perennial Internships you are applying for.

   b. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially added to your application(s). This recommendation form needs to be submitted by the January 29th deadline.

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 111.

   b. Stop by the Food, Environment & Sustainability Career Interest Group Drop In Hours in the Career Center (204 Davis Center): Tuesdays, 10:30am – 12pm and Wednesdays, 1:30pm-3pm

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

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.