

Vegetation and Rangeland Management Youth Internship at Point Reyes National Seashore

Mentors:

Dylan Voeller (Range Technician): Range Management Program

Ellen Hamingson (Restoration Biologist): Habitat Restoration Program

Location: Point Reyes National Seashore

Employer: Point Reyes National Seashore Association

Project Duration: Approximately 2.5 months beginning July 14th

Time commitment: 40 hours/week

Age: 18 & over

Goals/Outcome of Position:

This internship is an opportunity for youth aged 18-25 to get exposure to and experience working in Natural Resources Management within the National Park Service (NPS). Specifically, the intern will work under the technical guidance of the Range Management Program and the Habitat Restoration Program of the Natural Resources Division at Point Reyes National Seashore. Because of the range of activities that the intern will engage in, this internship will provide a broad view of different aspects of the National Park Service and will be especially beneficial to youth considering job opportunities in the environmental sciences within NPS.

The intern will work half time with the Range Management Program and half time with the Habitat Restoration Program, for a total of 5 days/week, generally Monday through Friday. The intern will be asked to work one Sunday per month, but will still be given two full days off per week.

Range Management Program: The Range Management program is responsible for managing the pastoral zone in Point Reyes National Seashore (approximately one-third of the Seashore's land) in a manner that will provide environmental protection and restoration of those lands while permitting ranchers to continue their traditional agricultural operations. The intern will assist with various projects taking place on park rangelands, which may include mapping (using GPS/GIS) and monitoring of range resources such as vegetation, residual dry matter, water features and fence lines, as well as construction, repair and/or removal of fence lines. The intern may also assist with the Native Plant Seed Collection Program, collecting seed from target species to grow or use directly in the revegetation components of range improvement projects. Additionally, the intern will assist with data entry related to rangeland monitoring.

Habitat Restoration Program: The restoration program works to control high-priority invasive plant species to protect and restore important plant communities and habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered plant and wildlife species. Point Reyes National Seashore is home to over 900 vascular plant species (16% of California's flora), 49 of them rare (four of which are federally listed) and three of which are found only at Point Reyes. Many rare plants are directly impacted by the invasive plants that can dominate or alter parts of our landscape. The intern will assist the Habitat Restoration program with invasive plant removal, monitoring, mapping, volunteer workdays and data entry.

Description of Duties

- Conduct manual removal of invasive non-native plant species
- Assist park staff in mapping (using GPS/GIS) and monitoring of range resources (e.g. fence lines and water features) and vegetation (rare/endangered, invasive, etc.)
- Assist park staff in construction, repair and/or removal of range resources such as fence lines
- Complete work performed data sheets and data entry
- Identify target native plant species, determine stage of growth, and collect seed according to protocols
- Maintain field gear including tools and other field equipment used during work
- Intern should sometimes expect to work long field days in difficult terrain (including cattle, dense vegetation and exposure to poison oak or ticks) under adverse weather conditions (windy, hot, cold)

Tools and Equipment to be Used in the Performance of Duties (provided by NPS)

- Personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves, eye protection, waders, rubber boots)
- Various monitoring equipment, including, but not limited to measuring tapes, sampling quadrats, GPS unit, digital camera, binoculars, compass, scale, plant identification manuals, and hand lens
- Hand tools such as hand picks, pulaskis, handsaws, shovels, rakes, loppers, and weed wrenches
- Fence construction/removal tools such as barbed wire, t-posts, fence pliers, digging bars, hammer, posthole digger and post pounder
- NPS two-way radio
- Government-owned vehicle

Training Provided and/or Required

Training provided on the job based on previous experience, skills, abilities and interests related to the internship.

Required Qualifications

- Demonstrated interest in invasive plant control and range management
- Interest in plants and ability (with training) to identify target plant species
- Ability to use hand tools safely and effectively
- Ability to work long field days in difficult terrain (sometimes including cattle, dense vegetation and exposure to poison oak or ticks) in adverse weather conditions (windy, hot, cold)
- Possess very good listening and oral communication skills
- Have the ability to interact with a variety of people and handle stressful situations
- Interest in and ability to work effectively with diverse volunteers
- Be able to work as part of a team as well as independently

Knowledge/Skills/Experience Desired

- Experience with vegetation monitoring and/or rangeland monitoring
- Ability to use technical measuring devices

- Ability to use a compass and GPS units
- Knowledge of ArcGIS software
- Experience with data entry using a computer and programs such as Excel, Access
- Experience maintaining tools and/or fencing

Special Requirements of the Position

- Must pass a federal background investigation
- Must complete the “Valid Driver’s License Self-Certification Statement” to drive government vehicles
- Must complete the “California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System Statement Form” regarding access to confidential information
- Must complete NPS computer use responsibilities training
- Must have a valid Tetanus immunization within the last 10 years
- Must provide personal hiking gear, sunscreen, food and water bottles

Benefits to the Intern (provided by NPS)

- Technical guidance in natural resources data collection methods, including GPS/GIS.
- Technical guidance in native plant/grass identification and restoration techniques.
- The intern will learn invasive plant species ecology and management.
- An overview of rangeland restoration techniques and practices
- Experience leading volunteer groups in field restoration activities
- Formal and informal training about the resources at Point Reyes National Seashore
- Personal enrichment and experience working in a National Park setting
- Protecting sensitive resources of national significance

Compensation

Interns will be compensated at a rate of approximately \$9.37 per hour as an employee of the Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA). The position does NOT include sick leave, annual leave, or health benefits.

No-cost, dorm style housing is available within the park. However, transportation is required to travel from the dorms to work each day (~20 minutes by car each way). The address of Point Reyes National Seashore is: 1 Bear Valley Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956.

Contact Information and How to Apply

Please send a resume, cover letter describing why you are interested in this position, and the names and contact information for three references via email to Dylan_Voeller@nps.gov. Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis, but must be received no later than May 30th, 2013.