

Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership Summer Internship

Position Background:

The Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership (MWBP) is seeking to fill four summer internship positions. The MWBP is a collaboration between the Bonneville Environmental Foundation, five watershed councils and staff from the Natural Resources Departments of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The MWBP is conducting beaver habitat assessments that include GIS-based modeling coupled with field verification to identify capacity for damming in all perennial streams in five sub-watersheds of the Mid-Willamette. This project will identify high priority areas for beaver-based restoration and landowner outreach and produce a beaver dam inventory for the region.

Position Description:

Positions are hosted by MWBP participating non-profit organizations and will be hired as seasonal part-time employees. Interns will be given the opportunity to gain valuable environmental professional experience by helping to carry out key objectives of the Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership habitat assessment project. Interns will visit a variety of stream sites to make observations of beaver habitat, beaver activity and stream and riparian conditions. Two-person teams will wade and hike streams to collect data using a Survey123 protocol accessed through a mobile device app. Interns will be trained to identify beaver habitat, beaver activity and channel and riparian characteristics and conditions. Sites will be located on both private and public land. Interns will conduct notifications prior to entering sites or communicate with landowners as needed before, during and after site visits. Interns will receive a one-day intensive training on beaver ecology and survey methods led by researchers from Utah State University. An MWBP project manager and Field Crew Lead will provide continued training, direction and quality control throughout the work period. In addition, interns will be given the opportunity to shadow MWBP professionals conducting tasks in other areas of restoration and conservation. MWBP hosts can also provide support and guidance if interns are interested in presenting on their experience and/or MWBP projects.

Work will be conducted at either half time (approx. 20 hrs) over two months or full time (approx. 40 hrs) over one month. July 18th to September 16th is the target start and end dates to carry out most field activities and taking into consideration limited availability of students after the start of the school year. Ideal timing to observe dam building activities is during the fall, however, late summer observations will suffice for this process. **Please indicate in your letter of interest if fall work is an option and if full time for one month or half time for two months is preferred.**

Project location:

Field work will be conducted throughout the Ash Creek, Marys River, Luckiamute and North Santiam watersheds on private and public land. This includes the outskirts of the cities of Corvallis, Monmouth, Falls City, Salem and Mill City. Additional field work will be needed in the South Santiam and Calapooia basins but is currently funding dependent and may get postponed for 2023.

Roles and Responsibilities

- Participate in a one-day beaver ecology and riverscape training

- Wade or hike creeks and rivers to conduct beaver habitat field surveys using a mobile device-based survey application
- Identify streamside vegetation, especially as it pertains to beaver habitat
- Identify channel and stream bed conditions and make general observations on dam building conditions
- Upload photos and field data
- Provide notifications and communicate with landowners for site access
- Report back to MWBP field tech and project manager and communicate with MWBP team on observations
- Regularly communicate with MWBP project manager and Field Crew Lead

Interns must

- Commit to a minimum of 120 hours (half time for two months, or full time for one month). Please indicate your preference.
- Have the ability to wade and hike in streams, along uneven ground, and through brushy conditions
- Have the ability to spend long hours in the field in challenging and remote locations.
- Have a strong sense of responsibility, work ethic, attention to detail, and demonstrate responsiveness to feedback
- Have good inter-personal skills and work well in a team environment
- Have a valid driver's license, work-related mileage will be reimbursed at the State of Oregon rate or per the current mileage reimbursement policy of the intern's host organization.
- Contribute to an inclusive working environment
- Have access to a reliable vehicle (we may be able to accommodate if not)

Desired Skills and Attributes

- Some undergraduate coursework, field experience, or strong interest in wildlife, environmental or conservation topics. Ideally, candidates will be working towards an environmental degree.
- Desire to work as part of a team and practice regular, clear and consistent communication
- Desire to learn about beaver ecology and watershed restoration and conservation
- Have access to a smartphone or mobile device to collect field data. One may be able to be provided if not.
- Have reliable personal transportation with proof of car insurance. Work-related mileage will be reimbursed at the State of Oregon rate per the current mileage reimbursement policy of the intern's host organization.
- Use of alcohol, marijuana, illegal drugs or illegal use of prescription drugs will NOT be permitted during work hours

* Waders and other field supplies will be provided

Diversity Statement

The Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership embraces diversity in our culture and hiring practices. The MWBP strongly encourages letters of interest from candidates from underrepresented groups to apply .

Compensation

\$18 per hour

COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

MWBP partners are committed to providing a safe, comfortable, and productive work environment for its employees. The MWBP requires interns to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19. Accommodations for exemptions will be provided as required by law.

To apply

Please provide a maximum one-page letter with your interest in this internship and how you meet the basic qualifications to jpzagarola@b-e-f.org. Use “Mid-Willamette Beaver Partnership Summer Internship” in the subject line of any email communications.