

Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (ANR) – Summer Internship Program

Internship Title: Wetland Evaluation, Assessment and Monitoring

Internship Site: Montpelier, VT; regular field work will occur throughout central and northern Vermont.

Description: This internship position will provide support for the 2017 bioassessment season of the ANR Wetlands Program. The internship will focus on two main goals: gathering data to assess the condition of Vermont's wetlands, and gathering information on exemplary wetlands that may warrant enhanced Class I protection under the Vermont Wetland Rules. Both aspects of the internship will primarily focus on field work, with some office assistance possibly including data management, technical assistance and project management tasks. The intern may also assist wetland ecologists with regulatory tasks. All field travel will leave from and return to Montpelier using ANR vehicles.

The wetland assessment portion of the internship will focus on assessing various wetlands in the eastern portion of Vermont. Field work for this project will have a primary focus from late June through late August, and will involve participating in a team of two to three state biologists with a variety of tasks. Plots will be conducted to document the diversity and abundance of plant species; the soil profile will be characterized; and water samples will be taken. Field days generally require a full 8-hour day and sometimes longer hours; a small number of overnight visits to southeastern Vermont may occur. Associated office tasks may include data entry and quality control; processing of water samples; and identifying and processing botanical specimens.

The Class I wetland portion of the internship will involve investigating select high-value wetlands throughout the state and identifying whether they may qualify for Class I status. This may consist of field visits to the wetland as well as reviews of existing data and analysis of the functions, values, and biological characteristics of these wetlands.

There will be an opportunity to gain experience in the survey and collection of plant specimens, identifying wetland stressors, gathering hydrological and water quality data, and collecting and assessing soil samples. Responsibilities in the office/laboratory setting will include preparing and organizing supplies for sampling, reviewing field data, and managing botanical specimens. The intern will also be introduced to the Vermont Wetland Rules.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

- Position requires a highly organized individual with attention to detail. Flexibility is also important, with the ability to maintain focus while performing a diverse set of tasks in varied indoor and outdoor environments.
- Prior field work experience is preferred, with an ability to work under potentially challenging field conditions (adverse terrain in hot, humid and/or rainy weather). The position will involve carrying field equipment and traversing rough terrain potentially including steep slopes and dense vegetation.
- Prior coursework in any of the following areas; wetland/water resources, botany, soils, hydrology, and/or ecology.
- Experience with using Microsoft Excel and Word, and ideally also mapping software such as ArcGIS.
- A general familiarity with field survey methodology and data quality control.

*College students currently in their first year, sophomore and junior year are eligible to apply. *

Supervision: Intern will be supervised in the Watershed Management Division by the Wetlands Program. Charlie Hohn (MAPP) will be the primary supervisor contact.

Start and End Dates: *Mid-May – Mid-August, 2017 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)*

Total Hours: *20 hours/week, 12 weeks*

Compensation: \$12.30/hour.

To Apply:

Send Resume and Letter of Interest to Charlie.hohn@vermont.gov. (802)505-3383

Application Deadline is March 30, 2017