



## Volunteer Position Description for Youth Internship (Interdisciplinary), FY 2010

### **Supervisors:**

John DiGregoria (Range Ecologist): Range Management Program & Native Plant Seed Collection Program

Ellen Hamingson (Restoration Biologist): Habitat Restoration Program

John Golda (Acting Chief of Interpretation): Division of Interpretation and Resource Education

**Location:** Point Reyes National Seashore

**Project Duration:** May - August

**Time commitment:** 2-3 months, 40 hours/week

**Age:** 18-25 years

### **Goals/Outcome of Position:**

This internship is an opportunity for youth aged 18-25 to get exposure to and experience working in multiple disciplines and divisions within the National Park Service. This internship will involve working with the Range Management Program and the Habitat Restoration Program of Natural Resources Division and within Visitor Services of the Division of Interpretation. Because of the range of programs that the intern will work in, this internship will provide a broad view of different aspects of the National Park Service and will be especially beneficial to youth considering different job opportunities within NPS.

The intern will work 2-3 days/week with the Habitat Restoration Program and the Range Management Program, and 2 days/week with the Division of Interpretation. This internship is based at Point Reyes National Seashore. Funding for this internship is provided by the National Park Service Youth Internship Program. Minorities are encouraged to apply.

**Range Management Program:** The natural resources intern will also assist with various projects taking place on park rangelands. 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 the Native Plant Seed Collection Program, collecting seed from target species to grow or use directly in the revegetation components of range improvement projects. The intern may also assist with mapping range resources, such as fence lines, using a GPS unit. Additionally, the intern may assist with the monitoring of vegetation plots established on park rangelands. The natural resources intern is expected to work 8 to 16 hours per week for a period of two months for the Range Management Program.

**Habitat Restoration Program:** The natural resources intern will assist the Habitat Restoration program with invasive plant removal and mapping. 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 natural resources intern is expected to work 8 to 16 hours per week for a period of two months for the Habitat Restoration Program.

**Division of Interpretation, Visitor Services:** The intern helps to strengthen the connection with and foster stewardship of Point Reyes National Seashore among park visitors by staffing the visitor center desks at the Bear Valley Visitor Center and Lighthouse Visitor Center and by roving throughout the park.

### **Description of Duties**

#### *Natural Resources*

- Assist park staff in mapping, monitoring, and manually removing invasive non-native plant species
- Assist park staff and AmeriCorps intern in completing work performed data sheets
- Identify target native plant species, determine stage of growth, and collect seed according to protocols
- Utilize GPS unit to collect geospatial data (possible)
- Assist park staff with vegetation monitoring (possible)
- Maintain field gear including waders, seines, and other field equipment used while monitoring

#### *Visitor Services*

- Staffs, alongside park rangers, cooperating association staff, and volunteers, the visitor center desk at the Bear Valley Visitor Center and/or Lighthouse Visitor Center
- Addresses visitor needs and facilitates positive visitor experiences by 1) orienting visitors to Point Reyes National Seashore and the surrounding area; 2) assisting visitors in identifying appropriate recreational opportunities; 3) providing information about the park and the surrounding area; and 4) conveying the significance of the park's natural, historical, and cultural resources
- Responds to and answers visitor questions in-person and over the phone
- Provides services to visitors in an efficient and professional manner
- Roves park areas to contact visitors
- Keeps current on park conditions, closures, issues, etc.
- Represents the National Park Service by wearing a volunteer uniform and interacting with visitors in a friendly, courteous, tactful, and helpful manner
- Performs retail sales

### **Tools and Equipment to be Used in the Performance of Duties**

- Personal protective equipment (e.g., gloves)
- Various monitoring equipment, including, but not limited to waders, nets, seines, stadia rods, measuring boards, sampling quadrats, and weighing scales
- GPS unit, measuring tape, digital camera, binoculars, compass
- Plant identification manuals and hand lens
- Hand tools such as hand picks, pulaskis, handsaws, rakes, loppers, and weed wrenches
- NPS two-way radio
- Government-owned vehicle

### **Training Provided and/or Required**

Training provided on the job.

### **Knowledge/Skills/Experience Desired**

- Interest in learning plant ecology
- Interest in native plants, ability (with training) to identify target native and non-native plant species
- Ability to use hand tools safely and effectively
- Ability to work long field days in difficult terrain (including vegetation with a poison oak component) in adverse weather conditions (windy, hot, cold)
- Ability to use technical measuring devices
- Ability to learn use of compass and GPS units
- Interest in and ability to work effectively with diverse volunteers
- Interest and desire to serve others
- Possess very good listening and oral communication skills
- Have the ability to interact with a variety of people and handle stressful situations
- Be able to work as part of a team as well as independently.
- Customer service and/or retail sales experience, public speaking experience, knowledge of the park and area, and teaching and hiking experience are helpful.

### **Special Requirements of the Position**

- The intern must complete the “Valid DL Self-Certification Statement” to drive government vehicles.
- The intern must complete the “California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System Statement Form” regarding access to confidential information.
- The intern must provide personal hiking gear, sunscreen, and water bottles.

### **Benefits to the Intern**

- The intern will learn data collection methods.
- The intern will learn fisheries sampling techniques in both freshwater and estuarine conditions and gain an understanding of the diversity of intertidal fish assemblages.
- The intern will observe techniques utilized in wetland restoration.
- The intern will learn native plant/grass identification and restoration techniques.
- The intern will learn invasive plant species ecology and management.
- The intern will get opportunities for formal and informal training about the park's resources
- The intern will gain personal enrichment and experience working in a National Park setting.
- The intern will enjoy the satisfaction in serving and educating a variety of park visitors while representing the National Park Service and in helping to protect sensitive cultural, historical and natural resources of national significance.
- Interns may also have the opportunity to certify in CPR and first aid.

### **Compensation**

Interns will be compensated at a rate of \$1300-1700/month, or \$65-85/day, depending on education and experience.

No housing will be provided. Interns are expected to arrange their own transportation to and from Point Reyes National Seashore headquarters every day. The address to 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, and the names of two references via email to [Jessica\\_Luo@partner.nps.gov](mailto:Jessica_Luo@partner.nps.gov). Applications will be evaluated on a rolling basis, but must be received no later than April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

If you are applying to multiple Youth Internships, please submit one application and indicate your interests in your cover letter.

For more information, contact:

Jessica Luo  
Education Coordinator  
Pacific Coast Science & Learning Center  
1 Bear Valley Road  
Point Reyes Station, CA 94901  
*e-mail:* [Jessica\\_Luo@partner.nps.gov](mailto:Jessica_Luo@partner.nps.gov)  
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