

Fire Ecology Intern

Fire Ecology Intern Position Description

Southern California has a Mediterranean–type ecosystem where fire is one of the dominant ecological processes affecting vegetation. The diverse Santa Monica Mountains flora with over 900 native plant species and 200 vegetation associations is under stress from increased fire frequencies in combination with changing climate, habitat fragmentation and weed invasion. The park has almost thirty years of postfire monitoring data from both prescribed burns and wildfires. The intern will perform vegetation monitoring in established wildfire plots and will participate in other related field projects with the park’s vegetation group. Office work will involve data entry, organization of project files, and data analysis. The intern will learn and work with the federal resource agencies’ new fire monitoring database, FFI.

Major Duties:

- Collect plot- based vegetation data including plant density, cover, species diversity and burn severity in a variety of vegetation types including, chaparral, coastal sage scrub, annual grassland, native grassland and valley oak savanna.
- Assist in the field with other park vegetation projects when additional personnel are needed
- Data entry into FFI, update and organize legacy fire monitoring data
- Provide mapping assistance with GIS
- Analyze data and provide summary reports on selected projects

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required:

- Intern must be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States.
- Undergraduate degree in the biological sciences; familiarity with the southern California flora and general botany.
- Ability to identify plants to species using a key; ability to gather field data with accuracy.
- Ability to perform computer word processing and database management.
- Familiarity with Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Access, and geographic information systems (ArcGIS) is desirable.
- Ability to compile and organize information to assist with technical reports.
- Capacity to travel by foot and perform strenuous physical activities on and off trail and under difficult conditions; knowledge of field GPS use is desirable.
- Ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, be detail-oriented and organized.
- Good oral and written communication skills and ability to follow oral and written directions.
- Valid driver's license is required.
- Must have own transportation to and from worksite. Government vehicles are available for intern use within the scope of their internship.

Work Site and Conditions:

- Office projects will require working in a comfortable office environment with a computer, reference documents and other technical resources.
- Field projects will require work outdoors in the Santa Monica Mountains and may require moderately strenuous hiking on steep slopes, work in isolated areas, long exposure to high and low temperature extremes, and potential encounters with poison oak, ticks, bees and yellow jackets, and rattlesnakes.
- Intern projects can be part time (usually 6 months) or full time (usually 12 weeks).
- Intern will work weekdays. Schedules are flexible with advance co-ordination with the project supervisor.
- Fingerprint and/or background check may be required.

Compensation:

A stipend of \$20 per workday may be available. Intern will be paid monthly or as worked out by the intern supervisor. Full time interns from outside the area may be eligible for shared housing.

To apply send letter of application, resume, three references and unofficial transcript by email to sheila_braden@nps.gov

For additional information contact: sheila_braden@nps.gov

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