

# Conservation Internship Program

The Conservation Interns act as research assistants in [Highstead's Conservation Program](#) for a twelve-week period from September 25, 2017 to December 15, 2017.

Highstead's Conservation Program is engaged in building the capacity of partners to achieve large landscape conservation strategies in New England, eastern New York, and beyond. Highstead works with more than eighty organizations in the Northeast to advance the pace and practice of large landscape forest conservation and fosters collaboration across political, geographical, and professional boundaries. Highstead collaborates with Harvard University's Harvard Forest and other regional partners to advance the Wildlands & Woodlands Initiative.

Interns will work with Highstead's Senior Conservationists to implement research, outreach, and policy projects that advance priority conservation initiatives, including the Conservation Finance Network, New England Forest Policy Group, the Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network, and the Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership. Interns will prepare and present a 15-minute presentation of their work at the conclusion of their internship.

## 2017 Conservation Program Initiatives

Interns will advance conservation in New England by bringing their energy and enthusiasm, writing, researching, and computer mapping skills to three or more of the following initiatives:

- **New England Forest Policy Agenda:** Provide information gathering, policy analysis, and other support to a New England-wide coalition intent on increasing resources for forest conservation across New England.
- **New England Conservation Finance Network:** Assist in developing a communications platform and strategy for a regional network of conservation finance practitioners, building on existing national efforts, and recent interest within New England. This project will involve repackaging existing content, identifying hot topics, assembling mailing lists, and blog writing and editing.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Gathering and Training:** Assist Highstead staff in organizing, administering, and supporting a full-day conference at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire.
- **Evaluate Conservation Funding Trends:** Build on recent Highstead work to catalog public and private funding for regional conservation. Update existing sources and identify new sources of information on philanthropic private and public grants, and private investments in forest and agriculture protection in New England.
- **Northern Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership:** Work with members of the ALPINE (Academics for Land Protection in New England) team and the RCP Network Steering Committee to assist matching ALPINE members (staff, faculty, students, and alums) with RCPs in the region.
- **MA and CT RCP Network:** ALPINE Regional Conservation Forums – Assist the Conservationist in organizing two events in early spring 2018 that will connect the two groups for mutual benefit.
- **Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H):** Assist Highstead staff and H2H Co-coordinators with land protection focused activities including strategic conservation mapping, a pooled match inventory, a project endorsement process, and with landowner workshops in the Wilton-Weston focus area. Assist with meeting and event organizing across the interstate region.

- **W&WI, RCP Network, and Conservation Finance Network Communication:** Work with the communications staff and the conservation staff to develop e-newsletters and website content in support of W&WI, the RCP Network, and the Conservation Finance Network.
- **Conservation Event Planning, Administration, and Coordination:** Interns may assist with events, meetings, and workshops serving a variety of conservation professionals.

## Qualifications

We seek recent graduates of Bachelors or Masters level programs with a demonstrated interest and enthusiasm for the development and implementation of real-world strategies in the following areas: landscape ecology, conservation finance, regional conservation partnerships, large landscape conservation, and forest policy. Candidates must have good writing, research, and organizational skills. They must be comfortable working in a group setting and also taking individual initiative, as they will have considerable responsibility for advancing one or more projects, often with little supervision. Experience with Geographic Information Systems is a plus in some instances. Candidates must have access to a car for travel within, and in some cases outside of, Connecticut.

## Compensation

Intern compensation includes the following:

- Stipend of \$5,000 for the 12-week session
- Free furnished housing

## How To Apply

**Please send the following materials to** Jody Cologgi at [jcologgi@highstead.net](mailto:jcologgi@highstead.net) by July 10, 2017. Reference "Conservation Intern Application" as the email subject. Candidates will be notified by Aug. 11, 2017.

1. Cover letter describing your relevant conservation background and interests (including coursework, employment, or experience), your expectations for a successful experience, and your educational and career objectives. (300 words maximum)
2. Resume
3. Two letters of recommendation (please make sure to have your references send their letters by email to [jcologgi@highstead.net](mailto:jcologgi@highstead.net)) and reference "Conservation Intern Reference" as the email subject.
4. Short writing sample

**Please submit one PDF document containing all of your application materials.**