

# Highstead Conservation Internship Program - Spring 2019

The Conservation Intern acts as a research assistant in Highstead's Conservation Program for twelve weeks from April 1, 2019, to June 21, 2019.

Highstead's Conservation Program is engaged in building the capacity of partners to achieve 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 landscape conservation and fosters collaboration across political and geographical boundaries and among different fields and sectors. Highstead collaborates with Harvard University's Harvard Forest and other regional partners to advance the Wildlands & Woodlands Initiative (W&WI).

The Conservation Intern will work with Highstead's Conservationists to advance conservation in the region by bringing their energy and enthusiasm, writing, researching, and mapping skills to our conservation program. The intern can expect to engage in analyzing data using geographic information systems (GIS); assisting in the development of communications products that may include writing and editing content for websites, blog posts, and social media platforms; supporting the organization, development, and administration of workshops and events for conservation practitioners; and providing technical and administrative support to working groups of conservation professionals and volunteers.

The internship will be based in Redding, CT, but will include occasional travel in New England and Eastern New York. The internship will culminate with a 15-20-minute final presentation to the Highstead staff.

## Spring 2019 Conservation Program Initiatives

The intern will be matched to projects according to their interests, strengths, and our highest needs. Interns will work on two or more of the following projects:

- **Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H):** Support activities related to land protection planning and community engagement, including researching and mapping urban assets and conservation values within the H2H region, and supporting outreach within cross-boundary focus areas.
- **Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Gathering:** Work with the Highstead team in event organization, audience cultivation, and administration for a two-day training and conference for over 300 regional conservation practitioners at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA.
- **Northern Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership:** Support a developing partnership of organizations working in the landscape surrounding the Appalachian Trail corridor with various activities that may include research on conservation trends, partner outreach, serving as a liaison with student groups, mapping, and administration. **Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Peer Exchange:** Co-develop a web-based "who's who" of RCPs that catalogs their characteristics, activities, and areas of expertise.
- **Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative:** Assist in the production of 1-2 webinars on eBird in support of this innovative initiative with the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.
- **New England Forest Policy Group:** Assist the steering committee in the development of a regional coordinated communication network designed to increase resources for forest conservation across New England.

- **RCP Spotlight Series:** Develop a series of stories on the activities of specific RCPs that align with the steps to RCP success as outlined in the RCP Handbook. These stories will help illustrate best practices and be posted on various websites, social media platforms, and e-news editions.
- **Wildlands & Woodlands Initiative (W&WI) and RCP Network Communications:** Work with communications and conservation staff to develop content for e-newsletters, social media, and websites in support of W&WI and the RCP Network.

### Qualifications

We seek recent graduates of Bachelor's or Master's 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, landscape conservation, and forest policy. Candidates must have strong writing, research, and organizational skills. They must be comfortable working in a group setting and taking individual initiative, as they will have considerable responsibility for advancing two or more projects, often with little supervision. Experience with Geographic Information Systems is preferred. Candidates must have access to a vehicle for travel within, and in some cases outside of, Connecticut.

### Compensation

Intern compensation includes the following: • Stipend of \$6,500 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 February 28, 2019. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Reference "Conservation Intern Application" as the email subject. Candidates will be notified by March 15, 2019.

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. Contact information for three references
4. Short writing sample

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