

# Conservation Internship Program

The Conservation Interns act as research assistants in [Highstead's Conservation Program](#) for a twelve-week period from September 26, 2016 to December 16, 2016.

Highstead's Conservation Program is engaged in building the capacity of partners to achieve large landscape conservation strategies in New England. 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 works with Harvard University's Harvard Forest and these 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 our work with the Hudson to Housatonic (H2H) Regional Conservation Partnership. Interns will prepare and present a 15-minute presentation of their work at the conclusion of their internship.

## 2016 Conservation Program Initiatives

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

- **New England Forest Policy Agenda:** Provide support to a federal policy process and a New England-wide coalition intent on increasing resources for forest conservation across New England.
- **New England Conservation Finance Roundtable:** Assist the Senior Conservationist in organizing and administering this national and regional event to identify innovative and effective strategies for doubling the pace of conservation through increases in financial capital.
- **New England Regional Conservation Partnership 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.
- **New England Conservation Finance Roadmap:** Assist Highstead team by conducting background research for a region-wide roadmap of conservation finance strategies to accelerate land conservation.
- **Fairfield County Regional Conservation Partnership (FCRCP) Action Plan Implementation:** Work with the FCRCP Coordinator to complete the countywide conservation map and with work planning for and implementation of priority sub-regional projects.
- **Hudson to Housatonic (H2H) Regional Conservation Partnership:** Assist Highstead staff and H2H co-coordinator with organizing workshops for landowners interested in conserving and managing their land for climate resilient habitat and drinking water quality.
- **Private Funding for Conservation:** Help Highstead team build on recent success with our public funding report by researching private funding, both philanthropic and investment, for New England Conservation.
- **W&WI and RCP Network Communication:** Work with the communications staff and the conservation staff to develop e-newsletters and website content in support of W&WI and the RCP 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 for the following areas: landscape ecology, conservation finance, land 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. 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) and reference "Conservation Intern Application" as the email subject. Review of applications will begin July 8.

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))
4. Short writing sample