Conservation Internship Program

Looking for an opportunity to gain real-world conservation experience? Highstead Foundation is currently recruiting for remote Conservation Interns for the fall 2021 Semester. Applications must be submitted by July 17, 2021. The Conservation Interns will support Highstead’s Conservation Program for a twelve-week period from September 20, 2021, to December 10, 2021. Interns will work remotely during the entirety of the internship.

Highstead is a regional non-profit conservation organization dedicated to working with regional partners and the best available science to conserve the New England landscape towards the Wildlands and Woodlands vision. Its principal conservation programs include catalyzing the land protection activities through Regional Conservation Partnerships, conservation finance, ecological research, policy analysis, and land stewardship.

The Conservation Internship Program is recruiting for three positions, including Conservation GIS, Conservation Communications and Events, and Conservation Policy Research to assist with this work. See below for specific requirements for each position.

All applicants should:
• Be a recent graduate of a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree program.
• Have a demonstrated interest in conservation science or natural resources management.
• Demonstrate a collaborative spirit that enjoys both independent and group work.

Additional qualifications:
● Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
● Ability to effectively manage multiple projects and adhere to deadlines.
● Experience conducting research.
● Access to a computer with a reliable network connection and a webcam.

As part of this program, interns will benefit from the following:
• Virtual networking opportunities with conservation professionals and academics.
• Opportunities to present work and research throughout New England to a variety of conservation professionals.
• Time and support to develop personal portfolios.
• Work on “real world” projects with landscape-scale impact.
• Serving as an integral part of the Highstead staff.
1) Conservation GIS Intern:

Overview: The Conservation GIS Intern will work with Highstead’s Conservationists to advance conservation in the region by bringing their writing, researching, and mapping skills to our conservation programs. Interns will work on mapping projects across two or more of the following initiatives. Some examples include:

- **Northeast Bird Habitat Conservation Initiative** - Assist RCPs and Audubon chapters in the production of mapping projects and analyses to support landscape-scale bird habitat conservation in the northeast.
- **Hudson to Housatonic Regional Conservation Partnership (H2H)** - Support activities related to land protection planning and community engagement, including mapping urban assets and conservation values within the H2H region.
- **Northern Appalachian Trail Landscape Partnership** - Support a developing partnership of organizations working in the landscape surrounding the Appalachian Trail corridor with various activities including mapping to support fundraising, partner outreach, and administration.
- **Provide GIS Support to new RCPs** - Produce GIS maps to help new RCPs across New England identify their partnership’s boundaries and priority landscapes.

Qualifications:
- Proficient in use of ESRI products such as ArcMap, ArcCatalog, and ArcGIS Online, to collect, analyze, and manipulate data, and create maps.
- Knowledge of cartographic principles for professional map layout and design.
- Working knowledge of data availability and sources.
- Excellent and effective verbal and written communication skills and ability to convey work and complex analyses to a variety of audiences through written materials, presentations and at meetings.

2) Conservation Communications and Events Intern:

Overview: The Conservation Communications and Events Intern will work with Highstead’s Conservationists and staff to advance conservation in the region by bringing their event planning, writing, research, and communication skills to our conservation programs. A major focus for this position will be the support, organization, and administration of the virtual **Regional Conservation Partnership (RCP) Network Gathering Program**, a multi-day training and conference for over 300 regional conservation practitioners. The Communication and Events Intern will also work on two or more of the following projects:

- **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.
- **RCP Spotlight Story 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, to be posted on various websites, social media platforms, and e-news editions, will help illustrate best practices.
- **Northeast Forest Network** - Assist the steering committee with the development and launch of their communication assets and toolkits and in the development of a regional coordinated communication network designed to increase resources for forest conservation across the Northeast.
Qualifications:

- Must be proficient in Microsoft Suite, specifically Excel and Publisher. Knowledge of WordPress is a plus.
- Firm grasp of available tools and platforms in the social media space and experience creating and posting content in support of organizational goals.
- Excellent and effective verbal and written communication skills and ability to convey work to a variety of audiences through email, presentations, meetings, and in online formats.
- Experience with event planning and implementation.
- Ability to synthesize information - strong analytical skills, and experience collecting, interpreting and organizing data.

3) Conservation Policy Research Intern:

Overview: The Conservation Policy Research Intern will work with Highstead’s Conservationists and staff to advance conservation in the region by bringing their writing, research, and communication skills to our Conservation Finance program. Interested candidates can expect to conduct research and policy analyses, assist with the writing and editing of conservation finance reports and communications materials, and collaborate with various Highstead partners and networks.

A major focus for this position will be leading the research and development of a series of articles exploring the current and emerging policy initiatives on climate finance in the U.S. The intern will work to produce materials that communicate the link between federal policy and finance for conservation to better understand and forecast trends in conservation finance.

Qualifications:

- Excellent and effective verbal and written communication skills and ability to convey work to a variety of audiences through presentations, meetings, and in online formats.
- Ability to synthesize information - strong analytical skills, and experience collecting, interpreting and organizing data.
- Must be computer literate and proficient in Excel.

Compensation: Stipend of $6,500 for the 12-week session

How to Apply: Please send the following materials to Jody Cologgi at jcologgi@highstead.net by July 17, 2021. Reference “Conservation Intern Application” as the email subject. Candidates will be notified by Aug. 13, 2021.

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. Please indicate the internship for which you are applying. (300 words maximum)
2. Resume
3. Contact information for three references
4. Short writing sample (max 2 pages; do not include excerpts from a research thesis)
5. If applying for the Conservation GIS internship, please submit a copy of a map you created as a PDF or a link to a web map

Please submit one PDF document containing all application materials.