

Alaska U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
2011 Student Employment Program
Intern Request Form

Please Complete all information listed in *BLUE*

Innoko NWR

FWS Office

PO Box 69

McGrath

AK

99627

Address

City

State

Zip

Bo Sloan

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FWS Project Leader

Phone

Email

Steven Kovach

Wildlife Biologist

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Intern Supervisor (if different)

Title

Phone

Email

May 23, 2011

McGrath, AK

Start Date for internship

Location of Internship

September 2, 2011

End Date for internship

Housing/Travel

NO

Does the internship location require the intern to have his own vehicle to get to work?

NONE

What kind of public transportation is available in the area?

YES

Will you or another FWS staff be able to pick up the intern at the airport if needed?

MCG - McGrath

Nearest airport to the internship location

Yes

Will your office be able to provide housing for your intern?

Housing Description:

Shared sleeping spaces while in McGrath, field-camps while on the refuge

Required Training

Check all the apply to this position

| | |
|---|---|
| ★ | General USFWS Overview |
| ★ | Bear Safety |
| ★ | Firearms |
| ★ | Boat Safety and Operation |
| ★ | Aircraft Safety(required for travel in government float planes |
| ★ | CPR and wilderness first aid |
| ★ | ATV Training |
| | Site/Job Specific (please describe): Navigation by GPS, digital photographic documentation, classification of habitats, identification of small mammal species, live capture and handling of small mammals |

Intern Position Description

Biological Technician (Biology)

GS-03, 04, 05

Position Title

GS or WG and what level?

DUTIES

Please note the duties the intern will be performing

As a **Biological Technician** you will:

- Navigate by GPS to sampling locations to classify existing habitat type and condition
- Record habitats using digital camera
- Conduct live capture sampling of small mammals to include species identification, measuring, marking, and preparation of deceased specimens for later scientific use
- Work from remote field camps established by boat
- Travel between camping and sampling sites by open boat
- Operate and maintain a variety of field sampling equipment
- Work and travel safely and effectively under difficult environmental conditions in bear country

EDUCATION LEVEL, SKILL, INTERESTS

Please note specific skills, competencies, interests, classes selected, or other qualifications that would be useful for an intern to have in order to make a significant contribution on this project.

This position requires **greater maturity** and **emotional resources** than positions that are solely office based. Field work is difficult with biting bugs and **strenuous working conditions** in remote environments with one other person; these conditions seem to be magnified during inclement weather. It is essential that the intern

be **enthusiastic** and willing to **learn new skills** both scientific and outdoor oriented. The intern must have exacting attention to detail for required data collection and management.

Intern must have experience in small mammal identification; remote camping; the ability to get along with small groups; and the ability to camp in a remote setting for 4 weeks without a break.

WORK CONDITIONS, CLOTHING GEAR

Describe the work conditions (hours, dress code, environment/setting) and appropriate clothing/gear that the prospective intern should be aware of

The intern will be expected to work a normal 5 days, 40 hours per week schedule during the habitat classification project; small mammal sampling requires working 10 consecutive 8-hour days. There may be rare times when additional hours will be required to complete tasks. The intern should bring field clothes that they are comfortable getting dirty. It is also recommended that the intern bring clothes, such that he/she can dress in layers. The temperature in Alaska from May to August ranges from 35 – 70 degrees (F) and weather can change dramatically within a day. The ability to add and remove clothes based on weather conditions is important. There are places to buy outdoor gear in Anchorage.

Cotton clothing is not recommended for field work, but is fine for Anchorage-based duties. Cotton gets wet and if it is next to the skin can rapidly remove warmth from the body. Synthetic fibers such as polypropylene, capilene, polar fleece, etc. are preferred when not flying (natural fibers are required while traveling in the refuge aircraft). Wool is a good natural fiber as it keeps its “warmth” even when wet.

Also, the intern should bring a warm hat, a baseball cap, sunglasses, hiking boots, comfortable “camp” shoes, comfortable loose clothing since the job entails being outside and strenuous hiking. Headlamp, flashlight or small battery operated reading light will be handy in August.

FWS to Provide: hip waders, knee boots, mosquito jackets and headnets, all equipment needed in the field, such as backpacks, field vest, sleeping bags, cook stoves, binoculars, field guides, etc.

Innoko NWR is very remote and isolated. There are no communities, roads, trails, or air strips within the refuge. The refuge has no access to telephone service (conventional or cell) or internet access. Daily communications are made via 2-way radios.

Travel to the refuge is by float plane while travel on the refuge is by open power boat (18-24'). If travel by small plane or open boats is a concern, this is not the place for you. Both black bears and brown bears occur throughout the refuge. Also of concern are female moose in early summer with newborn calves. While there have only been three incidents in the 30 year history of the refuge requiring a bear be killed, applicants must be willing to use a firearm in order to protect their life or the lives of others in their crew.

Due to the complexities in scheduling resupply flights, coordination among other projects the refuge is either conducting or supporting, and space issues, do not expect to be able to travel between the refuge and McGrath during the summer. Once you are on the refuge, plan on spending the rest of the summer there.

Innoko NWR is not the typical Alaska envisioned by most. We are located in what is known as Interior Alaska. The refuge has over 22,000 lakes and more than 7,100 miles of rivers, creeks, and sloughs running through it; the Yukon River forms the western boundary of the refuge. Innoko NWR was specifically created for the conservation of waterfowl, black bear, moose, and furbearers, as well as other species. Interior Alaska is also home to more mosquitoes than anywhere else. Innoko NWR is situated in

a large river basin surrounded by low (generally less than 1,000 ft), rolling hills. Low land areas are dominated by wetland, muskeg, and black spruce bog habitats. Upland areas are dominated by spruce forests, deciduous forests, and mixed spruce-deciduous forests. Tundra areas are intermixed throughout the refuge. There are no clear-water streams on the refuge and fishing is limited to northern pike. However, bird watching and photography opportunities abound.