

INVASIVE PLANT MONITORING & CONTROL ASSISTANT (Connecticut)

Location: Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge - Coastal Connecticut (HQ in Westbrook, CT)

Duration: Beginning May 15th to August 5th (12 weeks)

Job Type: Seasonal Position/Paid Internship/Full-Time (40hr/week)

Stipend: \$600/week before tax (housing may be available for rent)

Job Description: Stewart B. McKinney NWR is looking for a qualified individual to be our 2023 Invasive Plant Seasonal Assistant. This person will assist the refuge wildlife biologist with several projects:

- mapping invasive plants on Great Thicket NWR in eastern Connecticut (Stonington)
- mapping areas for monitoring of control techniques
- controlling tree-of-heaven resprouts at the Milford Point Unit
- leading volunteer days to control invasive plants on refuge units
- other monitoring and control activities from Stonington to Greenwich, CT
- assist the refuge biologist in training mapping contractors for Calf Island

Duties include but are not limited to:

- mapping invasive plant species for inventory/monitoring (e.g., Milford and Stonington)
- using ESRI FieldMaps and Survey 123 for data input
- conducting invasive plant control
- working with volunteers
- talking with/educating the public
- helping to train invasive mapping contractors

Job Requirements:

- work mostly independently but may work in teams
- schedule includes working holidays and weekends
- schedule will be approximately 40hrs/wk – 5 days on and 2 days off
- work will often be labor intensive and may be in adverse weather such as extreme heat and rain – need to be physically able to lift 30lbs and walk miles over uneven terrain
- work includes hazards such as direct contact with poison ivy and plants with thorns, as well as conditions with biting insects to include ticks and mosquitoes
- will be required to wear a uniform to work every day
- may use power equipment with personal protective equipment
- will need to operate a refuge vehicle – need to have a U.S. driver's license
- may need to operate refuge boats (intern may need to pass Motorboat Operation training course giving at the refuge)
- will need to drive personal vehicle to work sites (no reimbursement)
- applicant must be a US citizen and be **18-30 years of age** (or up to 35 if a U.S. veteran)

Qualifications:

- experience controlling and identifying invasive plants preferred – but landscaping and other labor-intensive outdoor work also welcomed
- flexible, independent self-starter personality
- ability to work alone and in teams
- college coursework in biology, botany, forestry, ecology, environmental science or related field

To Apply: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with preference given to those received by January 13th, and a final deadline on March 3rd. Send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least 3 references (must include email and phone number) via email to: Kristina_Vagos@fws.gov. **In the subject line, please enter “Invasive Plant Assistant” and the first letter of your first name followed by your full last name.** All application material should be titled similarly. Please do not send applications by mail.

REFUGE OPERATION TECHNICIAN (SEABIRD RESEARCH) Connecticut

Location: Falkner Island, CT – Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge

Duration: Beginning May 15th to August 5th (12 weeks)

Job Type: Seasonal Position

Salary: \$15/hr (housing may be available for rent)

Job Description: Stewart B. McKinney NWR is looking for one qualified individual to be our 2023 Refuge Operation Technician stationed on Falkner Island to monitor seabirds. Duties of this technician position include but are not limited to:

- monitoring productivity of roseate and common terns on Falkner Island
- identifying both species' prey items (typically small fish) and recording data
- band re-sighting (fledglings and adults) from field blinds and other locations
- banding common tern chicks
- participating in non-lethal predator management
- completing maintenance projects and invasive species control
- operating/maintaining small watercraft and associated vehicles (must pass MOCC course)
- educating the public and assisting with training of other seasonals working on the island

Job Requirements:

- The position is based on an island in a bird colony with thousands of birds. Technician must be able to work around birds who will be actively defending their territory/colony. This includes the birds as a group flying at and hitting the top of the head (safety hat provided for protection), as well as being around bird excrement and having birds excrete on you (issued safety equipment).
- This position involves working long hours, nights, weekends, and holidays. Schedules will be around 40 hours per week but will vary in the length of day and start time.
- The technician will spend 5+ days living on the island in rustic conditions (no running water, outhouse, solar power, limited and unstable WiFi connection) and 2 nights off.
- Weather and wave height may change work schedule due to transportation issues.
- Work will often be labor intensive and may be in adverse weather – need to be physically able to lift 30lbs and walk miles over uneven and rocky terrain
- Work includes hazards such as direct contact with poison ivy and plants with thorns, as well as conditions with biting insects to include ticks, mosquitoes, and biting flies
- Will be required to wear a uniform to work every day, operate a boat, and drive Refuge vehicles
- May use power equipment with personal protective equipment
- Must take and pass the DOI's Motorboat Operation Certification Course
- Will need to drive personal vehicle to/from Guilford dock when meeting boat
- Applicant must be a US citizen, have a US Driver's License, and be **18-30 years of age** (or up to 35 if a U.S. veteran)
- Will be required to provide information about banding experience for permitting purposes

Qualifications:

- Previous bird banding experience is required
- Additional experience working with birds, field work in a field camp setting, data collection, bird identification, boat operation, fish identification, and an academic background in wildlife biology, zoology, environmental science or a related field are preferred.

To Apply: Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis, with preference given to those received by January 13th, and a final deadline on March 3rd. Send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for at least 3 references (must include email and phone number) via email to: Kristina_Vagos@fws.gov. **In the subject line, please enter "Falkner Island" and the first letter of your first name followed by your full last name.** All application material should be titled similarly. Please do not send applications by mail.