



Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge 2014 Spring and Summer Prescribed Fire Internship



Location: Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is located 20 miles east of Des Moines, Iowa. The Refuge consists of 5600 acres, 3000 of which has been returned to prairie. Bison and elk roam a 750 acre enclosure, while white-tail deer, mink, coyotes, owls and numerous songbirds also wander throughout the Refuge. The role of fire is to help restore and maintain the prairie and oak savanna habitat.

Duties: Interns will assist Neal Smith NWR staff in a variety of prescribed fire and wildfire suppression activities and projects including: burn operations and preparation on and off refuge, equipment maintenance, equipment operations, cache inventory and organization, general wildfire readiness, fire effects monitoring, updating of prescribed fire brochure, participation in national mobility efforts, tree cutting, and other duties on the refuge as needed.

Benefits: The internship will generally run 9 - 12 weeks, working 40 hours a week, and is available during the spring, and summer seasons. The intern will receive a stipend of \$2880 to \$3840 for 9-12 weeks respectively. Refuge staff will work with students to fulfill internship credit requirements at individual universities, including assigning independent projects. Housing is not provided. There are several rental opportunities in the local area.

Qualifications: Anyone interested in applying should be able to work independently or in small or large groups. The selected individual will be required: to pass a fitness test at the arduous level and have obtained certificates for S-130, S-190, I-100 and L180 prior to start of the internship; pass IS-700.a within two weeks of start date; to travel and work long hours on and off of refuge in extreme environmental conditions, and to be away from home unit up to two or three weeks at a time based on prescribed fire and wildfire assignments. Basic computer skills and a valid driver's license are required.

To Apply: For spring and summer internships, the following must be received by February 17, 2014: 1) a one-page cover letter describing personal background and interests, 2) a detailed resume noting education, experience, skills, and include three references and their phone numbers 3) unofficial college transcripts, and 4) a letter of recommendation including the name, affiliation, address, telephone, and email address of the person writing the letter. Information should be sent to: **Jim Krizman, Fire Management Specialist, Neal Smith NWR, P.O. Box 399, Prairie City, IA 50228.**

For additional information contact **Jim Krizman** at (515) 994-3400 or james_krizman@fws.gov or go to <http://www.tallgrass.org> or www.fws.gov/refuge/Neal_Smith.