



## *Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge 2016 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 700 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 diversity 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 6 - 12 weeks , working 40 hours a week at \$10 per hour, and is available during the spring and summer seasons. The intern will receive a stipend



of \$2400 to \$4800 for 6-12 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, in small or large groups. The selected individual will be required: to pass fitness test at arduous level and have obtained certificates for S-130, S-190, I-100, and L180 prior to start of internship, pass IS-700.a within 2 weeks of start date, to travel and work long hours on

and off of refuge in extreme environmental conditions, required to be away from home unit up to 2-3 weeks at a time based on prescribed fire and wildfire assignments. Basic computer skills and a valid driver's license are also required.

**To Apply:** For spring and summer internships, the following must be received by February 12, 2016: 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](mailto:james_krizman@fws.gov) or go to <http://www.tallgrass.org> or [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/neal\\_smith](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/neal_smith)