PROJECT DESCRIPTION
2020 FALL/WINTER
APPLY BY OCTOBER 26, 2020

NPS UNIT: GEOLOGIC RESOURCES DIVISION
PD #: 2020487

Position Title: Natural Resource Management Assistant
Position Type: Guest Scientist
Primary natural resource discipline: Multi-disciplinary
Project keywords: mining claims, mineral rights, active and inactive sand and gravel mine sites, database development
Location: Lakewood, Colorado

COVID-19 NOTICE

The office building for this project is closed due to COVID-19, therefore this project will be entirely remote. Project timelines and structure remain flexible and it may be necessary to reformulate the project’s description with the changing nature of the pandemic. Should any development in the COVID-19 outbreak impair a project’s timeline or results, the GIP Team will work with the project mentors to assess the situation and determine the best course of action at that time.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Position Description: The purpose of this project is to update internal Geologic Resources Division (GRD) records as to the number of mining claims, other types of mineral rights and operations, and active and inactive (unreclaimed) sand and gravel mine sites in areas administered by the National Park Service. Undertaking this task will require coordinating with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), park resource and maintenance staff, the NPS Lands Division, and local/state permitting agencies. The Guest Scientist will initiate phone calls with park and regional staff, BLM, and potentially other agencies, review records in GRD and the NPS Lands Division, and fill out an Excel spreadsheet or database. The completed spreadsheet will list the park name, the mineral rights in that park (if any), the active mineral operations (if any), the inactive (unreclaimed) sand and gravel mine sites, and the source of the information for that park.

By updating this information, the Guest Scientist will support the NPS’s understanding of the extent of mineral rights, ongoing or likely mining activity, and potential mining- and reclamation-related workloads. This will facilitate GRD’s ability to obtain and direct capacity and resources to the areas of greatest need in order to help park staff and managers mitigate impacts of mineral development on park resources and values.

Work Products: Updated Excel database and supporting information (contacts, emails, and records of phone conversations).

QUALIFICATIONS

Skills and strengths needed include the ability to differentiate property ownership descriptions, navigate property parcel web pages, and consolidate information into an organized, consistent spreadsheet. Other needed abilities include excellent speaking, writing, and conversational skills, initiative, sustained focus, project organization, and a solid work ethic. Finally, the applicant must be able to use Excel or other type of spreadsheet software.
Needed courses include those with an emphasis on environmental conservation or public lands management, various types of mining and mineral rights, and English writing and grammar.

Priority will be given to candidates who reside in the Greater Denver Area in order to set them up with a government computer. Candidates studying at Colorado School of Mines, Denver University, Colorado State University, University of Colorado, and Colorado College are encouraged to apply.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident (“green-card-holder”) between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, inclusive, or a veteran up to age 35. Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required.

**VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**
- Applicant must have a valid driver license and a good driving record. Yes
- A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position. No

At this time, much of the work will be done remotely since the GRD offices in Lakewood, CO are closed due to the pandemic. Occasional travel to the office or other federal offices will be required to obtain a government computer, ID, and card. In addition, a driver’s license is required for any travel to a park unit.

**HOUSING**
- Park housing is not available. The job may be performed at the applicant’s existing home. If the applicant travels to a park, they would stay in government-funded lodging.

**INTERNSHIP DATES**
- **Start Date:** December 7, 2020
- **Number of weeks:** 36 weeks
- **Flexible start date:** Yes

**LIVING ALLOWANCE**
- 36 weeks ($525/week = $18,900)

**RELOCATION ALLOWANCE**
- $250

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FUNDS**
- $2,000 (receipt based reimbursement)

**AMERICORPS PROGRAM**

AmeriCorps is a program that engages individuals in intensive community service work with the goal of “helping others and meeting critical needs in the community”. The GIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the GIP’s living stipend and relocation allowance.

Upon successful completion of the GIP position, the GIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a $1,612 - $6,095 pre-tax education award that can be used for paying back student loans or for continuing their education. The amount of the education award is based on the length of the position.

AmeriCorps limits the number of terms an individual can serve to 4 terms. If an applicant has previously completed 4 GIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional GIP position.

**NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Natural Environment: If the applicant travels to a park unit to visit mining claims or other mining sites, the travel will involve accessing a variety of locations. Some mining sites in parks are near paved or gravel roads. Others are remote, accessible only by traveling on extremely rough roads and/or hiking. Because this project will start in the winter and end in early summer, weather conditions may be cold or hot. Grocery stores will be far away. Park units are majestic, beautiful, and inspiring.
**Physical Work Environment:** Most of the work will be performed at the applicant’s residence or, if GRD’s Lakewood office reopens, at that office. The work will be largely sedentary, and will require use of a computer and the phone.

**MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS**

**Mentoring:** The GRD Energy and Minerals Branch Chief, as well as two Energy and Minerals Branch staffers, will mentor the Guest Scientist by teaching them about the mineral rights in parks, resources for research, relevant agencies, and initial points of contact. Mentoring will be as formal as possible, but will likely be remote due to COVID-19-related restrictions. GRD will communicate with the Guest Scientist on a daily basis through phone, email, and video calls to make sure that the Guest Scientist is progressing well, learning, and enjoying the project.

**Learning Goals:** The Guest Scientist will learn about the National Park Service and other agencies, the management of mineral rights in protected areas such as parks, and the value of collaborating with a variety of subject matter experts. The Guest Scientist will develop and/or improve his or her skills in verbal and written communication, project management and organization, and interpretation of property rights descriptions.

**SUPERVISORS/MENTORS**

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<tr>
<th>Primary:</th>
<th>Secondary:</th>
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