PROJECT DESCRIPTION
2020 FALL/WINTER

NPS UNIT: HAGERMAN FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position Title:</th>
<th>Education Assistant (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Position Type:</td>
<td>GIP Intern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary natural resource discipline:</td>
<td>Geologic resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project keywords:</td>
<td>paleontology, ecology, geology, climate change, birding, recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Hagerman, Idaho</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PD #: 2020407

COVID-19 NOTICE
This project description was developed prior to the onset of the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, project timelines and structure remain flexible and it may be necessary to postpone start dates, begin work remotely, or reformulate the project’s description. Should any development in the COVID-19 outbreak impair a project’s timeline or results, the GIP Team will work with the park and project mentors to assess the situation and determine the best course of action at that time.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Position Description: Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument (HAFO) provides a "window" into the Pliocene that allows scientists, park staff, and visitors to discover and understand evolutionary relationships, species distributions, environmental change, and animal behavior in Idaho and beyond. The Hagerman fauna includes more than just horses, while the Hagerman Valley has more than just fossils to draw visitors. Several small state parks in the valley showcase a Snake River teeming with fish, abundant wetlands replete with water birds, unique geologic histories that have produced the towering columnar basalts and gorges, waterfalls, and thermal features that punctuate the landscape, and resulting hiking, fishing, kayaking, hunting and birding opportunities. Together, these state and federal lands work together to protect the resources that make Hagerman a great recreation destination. With that mindset, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument is joining the Thousand Springs District of the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation parks to develop a comprehensive joint-run visitor center complex just outside of the town of Hagerman, ID. This new complex will have on-site camping, fishing, birding and a variety of interpretive and educational programs on topics reflective of the resources found in the Hagerman Valley on state and federal lands. As an education intern, you will be joining HAFO interpretive and resource staff at an exciting time!

Your job will be to develop programs that connect visitors and locals to Hagerman’s natural and cultural resources in meaningful ways and to aid in their understanding of science. Interns will gain experience in public presentation skills, interpretive method and theory, and science communication. The intern will be supervised by the park paleontologist and work closely with her and visitor center rangers in order to learn NPS Interpretation methodologies and to understand what goes in to an interpretive program. They will work closely with the paleontologist to ensure suitability and relevance of the topic and accuracy of any materials produced.
Interns will spend the majority (75%) of their time researching their topics and developing programs. They will also assist with visitor engagement, including speaking with visitors or assisting with school groups, as needed.

Hagerman’s enabling legislation states that the monument was created to “Preserve outstanding Pliocene paleontological resources, to serve as a center for furthering scientific research, and to broaden public understanding of the science of paleontology and the significance of the Hagerman fossil record”. This position supports the understanding of science and the interdisciplinary nature of paleontology. The GIP will be responsible for sharing complex information in ways that engage the visitor and help them to recognize the importance of our nation’s natural and cultural resources.

This position is offered through the National Park Service’s Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP) Internship Program in partnership with Stewards Individual Placement Program (Stewards) and The Geological Society of America (GSA).

**Work Products:** Main deliverables are three ranger talks. One talk will be 45 minutes in length (with anticipated answers to questions) and designed as a powerpoint presentation that can be presented at the visitor center or projected on an outside wall at the campground amphitheatre. The other two talks will be 20-30 minutes in length and designed as more informal visitor engagement opportunities that may include props and/or involve recreational activities (birding, kayaking, citizen science event). The intern will also have developed their speaking, listening, research and organizational skills and will leave with a better understanding of National Park Service interpretive methods.

**QUALIFICATIONS**

We are looking for an intern with a strong background in paleontology, geology and/or ecology to develop several “ranger talks” that will form the basis of our new, interdisciplinary interpretive program. Preference will go to an intern with a strong interdisciplinary background in the sciences and past evidence of developing educational and/or interpretive products. This may include working or volunteer work as a teacher, teacher aid/assistant, tutor, interpreter, museum docent, or camp counselor. As a winter position, an undergraduate degree is expected, but applicants who can clearly show that they have obtained advanced training (e.g., 200 level and higher in relevant coursework; other internships), but have yet to complete their degree, are also encouraged to apply.

Advanced coursework in one of the following fields is required: paleontology, geology, ecology, conservation, or archaeology is required. Preference will go to interns with advanced training that spans more than one of these fields, but we recognize your degree may be in education, art, or recreation science. Please make sure to clearly state in your application what experience you have that makes you a strong candidate. For example, please note what experience you have in using PowerPoint, Photoshop, InDesign, Paint and/or Illustrator including examples of products produced. Also, please consider your application as a writing sample: applicants failing to attach a proper cover letter will not be considered, while those that do will be ranked, in part, on their writing.

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 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.** The intern is unlikely to be driving a park vehicle, but is strongly advised to have a personal vehicle for work and recreation.
**A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position.** Interns will be required to get from the cabins or other lodgings to the visitor center, on time. Hagerman winters can be cold and icy and a bike may not be idea transportation. Hagerman is rural with no rideshare programs or public transportation.

If the GIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the GIP’s ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. GIPs will have to have had their license for 3 years or be over the age of 21 to be insured as drivers under Stewards insurance policy. Examples of things that will preclude a GIP from driving a park vehicle include: GIP under the age of 21 years old that has been licensed less than three years, DUls, multiple moving vehicle violations, suspended or revoked license, or three or more accidents (regardless of fault) in the last 3 years. If the driver’s search is favorable, Stewards will provide driver’s liability insurance while the intern is driving an NPS vehicle for their GIP position. If the GIP is denied coverage by Stewards, they will not be permitted to drive during work hours.

### HOUSING

**Park housing is NOT available and the intern will be responsible for finding housing in the nearby area.** Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument is located in the town of Hagerman, Idaho approximately 45 minutes from Twin Falls. The park lacks government housing. Furnished, but basic (toilet and sink, Wi-Fi), single room cabins are available at a local RV park for $550/month with full bath cabins at $650/month. A shower block and laundry facilities are available for use. Pets are not allowed unless attended at all times. HAFO provides a stipend (built into the living allowance) to offset the cost of housing for the 12 week period. Interns are welcome to look for alternative housing, the cabins are only a suggestion, but the monthly stipend amount remains fixed. Cabins are biking distance to town where they will find a small grocery store and the visitor center where the intern will be working. Hagerman is a small, rural community with limited social opportunities outside of church activities and local bars. Interns must have their own reliable personal vehicle as there is no public transportation in Hagerman or from the airport to town. Please make sure that you will be comfortable being away from family and friends before considering this position.

### INTERNSHIP DATES

- **Start Date:** 1/4/2021
- **Number of weeks:** 12 weeks
- **Flexibility of dates:** Yes

### LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 weeks ($500/week = $6,000)

### RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

$250

### 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:** Hagerman is a small, conservative farming community of around 500 people. It has a locally owned grocery store, four restaurants, and a small library. HAFO is a small park with a staff of 4-6.
You must feel comfortable being away from friends and family and understand that there will be limited social opportunities in town. Independent interns with a reliable car will find plentiful opportunities for adventure and social interaction in Boise/Sun Valley/Salt Lake City. Hagerman is approximately 45 minutes from Twin Falls, 90 minutes from Boise, and less than two hours from Sun Valley. The closest movie theater, mall, or big box store is a 30-45 minute drive. Boise and Sun Valley have a variety of restaurants, nightclubs, museums, and various seasonal events. In the winter, hot springs, fishing, hunting, snowshoeing, skiing and snowboarding, ice climbing, birding, photography and other outdoor opportunities abound, but these will require a car to enjoy. Hagerman experiences a high mountain desert environment with mild spring weather, but January and February are the coldest months with temperatures typically between 10–35°F. People with allergies should be advised that this is a farming/cattle/sagebrush area. Please be prepared for possible seasonal allergies.

**Physical Work Environment:** You will work 9–5 Monday through Friday, with occasional requests for work outside of those hours for special events. You will be in a shared office space at the HAFO visitor center located on the main street of Hagerman, ID. It has a kitchenette and bathroom and is walking distance to a grocery store and local restaurants. You will have your own desk and computer in a space shared with our interpretation ranger and volunteers. Most of your time will be spent in an office setting, and you must be able to sit and type at a computer for long periods. Your office will be adjacent to public museum space and you will be required to dress professionally (clean, pressed, hole-free clothing) with your GIP logo present on your person. Positive interactions with the public will be expected. The park paleontologist will be your primary supervisor. Her office is several miles away, but she is on-site at the visitor center every Monday, plus will be available for weekly meetings and other unscheduled support.

### MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

**Mentoring:** The intern will be supervised by the park paleontologist, who has mentored many students and past interns on resume building, public speaking, interpretation, cover letter writing, job and literature searches, and product (including education-based) development. This is a small park with limited staff, so informal activities trainings or other formal events are unlikely. The park is part of the larger Southern Idaho Parks system (Craters of the Moon, Minidoka Historic Site, City of Rocks), and the intern may benefit from a larger pool of staff and potential opportunities.

**Learning Goals:** This position provides opportunity to gain training in science communication and interpretation including public speaking, interpretive writing, and Photoshop which can prepare them for a career in science education and/or simply make them better science communicators. Past HAFO education interns have gone on to graduate school programs in science education and outdoor education science.

### SUPERVISORS/MENTORS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary:</th>
<th>Secondary:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kari Prassack</td>
<td>Matt Bruce</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paleontologist</td>
<td>Visitor Center Ranger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>221 N. State St.</td>
<td>221 N. State St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hagerman, ID 83332</td>
<td>Hagerman, ID 83332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(208) 933-4131</td>
<td>(208) 933-4127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:kari_prassack@nps.gov">kari_prassack@nps.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:matt_bruce@nps.gov">matt_bruce@nps.gov</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>