# PROJECT DESCRIPTION
## 2020 FALL/WINTER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NPS UNIT: WHISKEYTOWN NATIONAL RECREATION AREA</th>
<th>PD #: 2020438, 2020439</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Position Title:</strong> Natural Resource Management Assistant (2)</td>
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<td><strong>Position Type:</strong> GIP Intern</td>
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<td><strong>Primary natural resource discipline:</strong> Biological resources</td>
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<td><strong>Project keywords:</strong> wildlife, mesocarnivores, inventory, monitoring</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Location:</strong> Whiskeytown, California</td>
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## 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:** Whiskeytown National Recreation Area in northern California supports a diverse array of mesocarnivore species, including several of special management concern, such as the Pacific fisher (Pekania pennanti) and ringtail (Bassariscus astutus). The ranges of these species coincide with areas with increasing risk of wildfire and a growing need for management of fire and fuels. Fires can reduce habitat suitability for some forest-associated species, including fisher, by removing canopy cover, but response of forest carnivores to wildfire is not well understood. As a part of a project to assess the occurrence and distribution of mesocarnivores in the Klamath National Park Network, camera surveys were conducted in Whiskeytown NRA in the fall of 2018, after the Carr Fire. The results provide a baseline inventory of carnivore species and important information about their immediate response to a severe wildfire. For example, results indicated that fisher and ringtail were still present in the burned area in the months immediately after the fire was extinguished. Because responses of wildlife to the burned landscape are expected to be highly dynamic following a fire, continued monitoring at Whiskeytown NRA would contribute significantly to an increased understanding of forest carnivore response to wildfire.

This internship will primarily focus on post-fire mesocarnivor surveys and habitat assessment at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area utilizing camera traps and hair snares to assess post-fire response. Interns will be responsible to navigating to pre-selected sites in the park and installing monitoring stations as well as collecting cards and servicing cameras at bait sites. Hiking through burned areas in steep, rugged terrain is necessary. Hair samples from hair snares will also be collected for potential future studies if species of special concern are documented to visit the sites. Data sheets will be completed documenting species observation at the sites.

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:** The data collected as part of this project will be used by USGS partners and NPS personnel to produce the following products:
- A nontechnical report documenting survey design, methods, and results.
- GIS layer of survey locations and species distribution.
- Database of observations with location coordinates, associated vegetation characteristics and ancillary information, including metadata.
- Peer-reviewed publication.

**QUALIFICATIONS**
The following skills and strengths will enable the intern to be successful:

1. The ability to hike long distances in steep, rugged terrain in a post-fire landscape.
2. The ability to use maps, gps, and compass to navigate to pre-selected sites and set up photo stations based on protocol.
3. The ability to identify carnivores of northern California.
4. The ability to operate 4-wheel drive vehicles on steep roads.

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.* Intern will be driving a park vehicle for duties.

*A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position.* Park housing is located near but not at the duty station and is also several miles from the nearest grocery store. Access to a personal vehicle is recommended.

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 a 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 available and will be provided at no cost to the participant.* Shared house with private bedrooms, shared bathroom and kitchen. Bedding and pillows are not provided.

**INTERSHIP DATES**
- **Start Date:** 9/28/2020
- **Number of weeks:** 12 weeks
- **Flexibility of dates:** Yes

**LIVING ALLOWANCE**
- 12 weeks ($350/week = $4,200)

**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: Whiskeytown National Recreation Area is a 42,500 acre unit of the National Park Service located in northern California. The park is located approximately 10 miles west of Redding, California, a city of approximately 80,000 residents, where major services are offered. Elevations range from 1000’ to 6,200’ and the park’s major attraction is Whiskeytown Reservoir, a 3200 acre lake popular among swimmers, boaters, and fishermen. The climate is Mediterranean and typically has mild but wet winters and hot and dry summers.

Physical Work Environment: Work will be approximately 75% field work and 25% office work. Hiking long distances in steep, rugged terrain is necessary to access the sites. This is in an environment that experienced a large wildfire in 2018 and post-fire related hazards do exist.

MENTORING AND LEARNING GOALS

Mentoring: Interns will work directly with park staff to ensure the data collected meets park and researcher needs. Interns will be trained by park staff in proper set up and maintenance of sites.

Learning Goals: Navigation using GPS, maps, and compass, data collection, data entry, and potentially some GIS work with the data.

SUPERVISORS/MENTORS

Primary: Russ Weatherbee
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