THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA®

SCIENTISTS IN PARKS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
SUMMER 2021

NPS UNIT: CAPITOL REEF NATIONAL PARK	PD #: 2021015

Project Title: Native Grassland Restoration at Capitol Reef National Park (1)
Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences
Project keywords: Restoration, Grasslands, Ecology, Climate Warming, Botany
Location: Torrey, Utah

COVID-19 NOTICE

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change and evolve, 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 SIP 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: The intern will support native grassland restoration in Capitol Reef National Park. Grasslands in Capitol Reef National Park have been degraded due to years of livestock grazing, invasion by annual weeds, and drought stress; however, with the retirement of a large grazing allotment there is an opportunity for successful restoration and improvement of park natural resources. Grasslands throughout the Colorado Plateau are vulnerable to the impacts of climate warming, particularly the increased frequency of drought. This, along with unstable soils and sensitivity to disturbance, makes arid grasslands particularly difficult to restore. This pilot project will use low-impact methods designed for remote desert sites on 10 acres of degraded grassland and will guide future efforts to restore over 300 acres. Over the course of the internship, duties will include some or all of the following: planning and implementation of seed collection, inventory, and seed cleaning; organization and construction of restoration materials; preparation of the restoration site; conducting pre-restoration monitoring, photo documentation, and data entry; and planting of native seeds. The intern will work closely with the park Ecologist to plan daily activities but should be prepared to work independently. The intern may lead volunteer groups or work with youth crews to complete tasks. Activities will consist of about 70% field work and 30% office work. Field work may involve hiking up to 10 miles per day and include exposure to heat, cold, or otherwise difficult conditions. Overnight stays in the backcountry may be required. This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with Stewards Individual Placement Program (Stewards) and The Geological Society of America (GSA).

Work Products:

- Completed seed inventory
- Collection and summary of pre-restoration site monitoring data
- Completion of a field notebook with detailed notes on work activities

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants should be advanced undergraduate or graduate students with experience and interest in ecological restoration, botany, or a related field. Strong organizational and communication skills are required. Good navigation skills and working knowledge of GPS and GIS technologies are preferred. Successful applicants will be able to identify Colorado Plateau plant species or use a taxonomic key. Safety of park employees and volunteers is a top priority and preference will be given to applicants who have the

ability to navigate backcountry environments independently, drive high-clearance 4WD vehicles, hike up to 10 miles a day, and have demonstrated situational awareness.

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 veterans 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 drivers license and a good driving record.

A personal vehicle is RECOMMENDED but not required for this position.

If the SIP is required to drive a park vehicle for their position, Stewards will perform a driving records search, and the SIP's ability to drive a park vehicle during work hours will be contingent upon the results. SIPs 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 SIP from driving a park vehicle include: SIP under the age of 21 years old that has been licensed less than three years, DUIs, 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 SIP position. If the SIP 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. Capitol Reef NP will provide housing in a 5-6-bedroom dormitory. The intern will have a private room with a shared bath, shared kitchen and common areas. The dormitory includes all appliances, coin-operated washer and dryer, some kitchen pots, pans and dishes, and internet service. Heat, electricity and water are included. A phone is available in each dorm and long distance calls can be made with a calling card. Housing is located approximately a 5-minute walk from the duty station.

NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical/Natural Environment: Located in the heart of red rock country in south-central Utah, Capitol Reef National Park's headquarters is 11 miles east of Torrey, Utah. The visitor center and headquarters are situated in the lush area along the Fremont River that winds through the Fruita Historic District at an elevation of 5500 feet. There are 378 square miles within Capitol Reef National Park, which was established to protect the 100-mile long Waterpocket Fold, a monocline in the earth's crust. The spectacular setting of Capitol Reef National Park has been formed over millions of years with water eroding and shaping the rock into myriad arches, natural bridges, monoliths, narrow canyons, and towering cliffs. Major shopping is available in Richfield, 75 miles distant. Staples are available in Loa, 30 miles distant. A medical clinic and dentist are available in Bicknell, 20 miles from park headquarters. The park is open year-round with the majority of visitation occurring during the busy season from April through October. Please visit our website at http://www.nps.gov/care for more information.

Work Environment: The work is primarily performed in the field, but will have periods of office work. Field work includes exposure to extreme weather conditions and terrain, biting insects, and wild animals.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 7/5/2021
Number of Weeks: 12 Weeks
Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 Weeks ($400/week =$4800)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE
$350
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 SIP Program is supported through AmeriCorps by providing a Segal Education Award in addition to the SIP's living stipend and relocation allowance. Upon successful completion of the SIP position, the SIPs (AmeriCorps members) are eligible for a $1,638 - $6,195 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 SIP or other AmeriCorps positions, they will not be eligible to apply for an additional SIP position.

SUPERVISORS/MENTORS	
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