

SCIENTISTS IN PARKS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMER 2021

NPS UNIT: WATER RESOURCES DIVISION	PD #: 2021038
<p>Project Title: Aquatic Invasive Species: Developing a toolkit to help parks tackle the challenge (1) Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences Project keywords: Invasive species, aquatic invasive species, management, habitat restoration, ecology Location: Fort Collins, Colorado</p>	
<p>COVID-19 NOTICE</p>	
<p>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.</p>	
<p>PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS</p>	
<p>Position Description: Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are species that are not native to an ecosystem and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. The Water Resources Branch and the Biological Resources Branch, in partnership with NPS Regional Offices, are currently working together to assemble a “toolkit” which will contain all of the resources needed for parks to best manage invasive species, located in one place so that parks can easily find all of the information they need.</p> <p>The intern will play a vital role in this project by researching individual AIS, assembling information on best management practices, and developing comprehensive summaries on each species. Each summary will include information on identification (and common look-alikes), phenology, and control methods and control timing. The summary pages will be posted online so that park management and staff can easily find and access this information.</p> <p>The intern will also collect additional documents and information needed for the toolkit by conducting online and network research and by working with team scientists. This research will span a wide range of topics, and the results may include such items as Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans and training, sample Job Hazard Analysis documents, permit templates and suggested language, contract templates, links to chemical safety training, and lists of regional and national support contacts.</p> <p>AIS is one of the greatest threats to marine and freshwater ecosystems that are managed by the NPS, which is why it was identified as one of 7 key issues prioritized by Regional Natural Resource Chiefs for the NPS Ocean and Coastal Resources Program to focus on over three years. For parks to tackle this problem, it is vital that they have access to all of the resources they need. These resources include information on current species distribution, identification and detection of emerging AIS, and tools necessary to assess, contain, and remove AIS. Finding this information can be challenging since it is dispersed and may not be readily accessible. Therefore, a project was developed in coordination with park, regional, and network NPS staff to build a “toolkit” to house these resources to enable park staff to more effectively anticipate, detect, and respond to new invasions.</p>	

The intern's role, critical to this project, will include compiling information and collecting references to populate the library with accurate information for parks to use as part of an Early Detection/Rapid Response Program. Without this information, each park would need to conduct its own research to determine how to best find, identify, and eradicate species when potential detections occur. This would waste valuable time and resources when both are critical in dealing with an invasion, and efforts would be needlessly duplicated across the NPS. Some parks lack staff expertise to compile the information.

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: The intern will be responsible for developing comprehensive summary documents on individual AIS. Each document will include relevant information on identification (and common look-alikes) including pictures, phenology, eDNA, control methods and control timing, and a list of references where readers can go for additional information.

In addition, the intern will be responsible for compiling documents, references, and resources onto a network drive and cataloging them in an organized manner. This information will be used in the online "toolkit."

QUALIFICATIONS

The ideal candidate will be an upper level undergraduate or graduate student with working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, and proven experience navigating the internet and conducting online research are required. The candidate should have a strong interest in aquatic ecology and must be able to effectively communicate orally and in writing, with strong interpersonal skills. They must be self-motivated with the ability to work well both independently and as part of a team. Knowledge of aquatic ecology and an understanding of invasive species is preferred but not required.

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 does not need a valid drivers license.

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 NOT available. The intern will be responsible for finding housing in the nearby area. Nearby housing options in Fort Collins and the surrounding towns include both apartments and room rentals. Rent costs start at around \$700/month and vary depending on furnishings, amenities, and location. Because Fort Collins is home to both Colorado State University and Front Range Community College, there may be sublet options available. Two web sites that list available rentals are NorthernColoradoRentals.com and FortCollins.Craigslist.org

NATURAL AND PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

The work environment is primarily an office setting and can require long periods of sitting. The office is located in Fort Collins, Colorado, which is located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains and sits at an altitude of approximately 5,000 feet. The weather in Fort Collins is generally mild in the spring and hot/dry in the summer. There is great access to hiking, biking, fishing, and other outdoor activities, although a car may be needed to enjoy some of these activities. It is considered a bike-friendly community, with miles of bike trails throughout the city. Because Fort Collins is a college town, there are many great restaurants and breweries to explore, and plenty of grocery stores and shopping opportunities. The nearest airport is located in Denver, which is a little over an hour away.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 5/24/2021
Number of Weeks: 12 Weeks
Flexible Start Date: Yes


LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 Weeks (\$525/week = \$6300)

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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