



## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### Summer 2022

<b>NPS UNIT: Big Thicket National Preserve</b>		<b>Position #: 4</b>
<b>Position Title:</b> Natural Resource Management Assistant		
<b>Primary natural resource discipline:</b> Biological Sciences		
<b>Position Keywords:</b> Forestry, Forest Management, Restoration, Timber Management, Forest Ecology		
<b>Location:</b> Kountze, Texas		
<b>COVID-19 NOTICE</b>		
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.		
<b>POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS</b>		
<b>Project Description:</b> Big Thicket National Preserve is collecting forest stand metrics in areas undergoing restoration for Longleaf pine savanna. The data will support the development of management treatments for ecosystem restoration and habitat improvement for endangered Red-cockaded woodpeckers. Stand metrics will consist of typical timber inventory data such as stand density, basal area, and canopy cover using standardized field methods. Tree cores will also be collected to estimate stand age.		
The intern will be primarily responsible for conducting fieldwork, analyzing data, and summarizing findings in a final report. Data collection will follow established protocols and will require navigating to field sites using GPS, off-trail hiking, operating a UTV, and using standard forestry sampling equipment. Data analysis and reporting would benefit from experience with GIS and map creation. The intern will receive guidance and assistance from preserve staff where needed. The intern will also be encouraged to participate in other projects and career development opportunities during their term such as aquatic invertebrate sampling, native plant nursery operation, volunteer events, trainings, and more. A short, informal presentation to preserve staff will be required to conclude the internship.		
<b>Work Products:</b> Final products will consist of (1) raw data and data analyses, (2) maps and other geospatial analysis data, (3) a final report that includes a summary of findings, description of methods, maps, and photos, and (4) a final oral presentation to preserve staff. Optionally, the intern may develop a poster presentation or social media posts exhibiting their work.		
<b>NATURAL &amp; PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT</b>		
Big Thicket National Preserve consists of 113,000 acres of forest and waterways interspersed with private rural lands and small towns immediately north of Beaumont, Texas, a city of over 100,000 residents. Summers are hot and humid with frequent afternoon thunderstorms. The preserve protects a rich assortment of ecosystems from Baldcypress-tupelo swamp to Longleaf pine savanna.		
The internship will consist mostly of fieldwork, though office work will be required for data entry, analysis, and report writing. Much of the fieldwork will require collecting data in somewhat difficult conditions (dense vegetation, hot and humid weather), but the intern will be encouraged to participate in a variety of ongoing projects related to natural resource management throughout the term. Fieldwork will require driving government vehicles, operating UTVs, and hiking off trail, typically less than 0.5 miles from a parked truck or UTV.		
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>		
Coursework or experience in timber cruising or vegetation field surveys is required. Coursework or experience in organizing and analyzing field data is highly desired. Coursework or experience in using GIS software and GPS units is preferred. Applicants should be comfortable working independently in the field with little supervision once fully trained and oriented. Applicants should be capable of working safely in hot and humid weather.		



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The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident ("green-card-holder"). Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required.

#### VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant must have a valid driver's license to drive a government vehicle.

A personal vehicle is 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.** No-cost housing is available on site. Housing arrangements will vary depending on scheduling, but all housing units provide bedrooms, shared bathrooms, and full kitchen. Every unit contains a stove/oven, microwave, and refrigerators. Basic cookware and dinnerware are usually available, but are not supplied by the preserve nor are bedding and towels. Cellphone reception is sometimes limited, but wi-fi is provided.

Housing units are located in a rural setting on the preserve and are accessed in part by dirt and gravel roads, but high-clearance or 4-wheel drive vehicles are not typically needed. Travel time from preserve housing to duty station varies from 25 to 40 minutes depending on the assigned housing unit. Travel time to nearest amenities is also 25-40 minutes.

#### INTERNSHIP DATES

**Start Date:** 05/01/2022

**Number of Weeks:** 20

**Flexible Start Date:** Yes

#### LIVING ALLOWANCE

20 Weeks (\$400.00/week =\$8000.00)

#### RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

350.00

#### AMERICORPS PROGRAM



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**AmeriCorps**

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.

### Partners

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Scientists in Parks (SIP) Program in partnership with various organizations.

