



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Summer 2022

NPS UNIT: Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division **Position #: 32**

Position Title: Acoustic Assistant
Primary natural resource discipline: Biological Sciences
Position Keywords: Bioacoustics, Acoustic Ecology, Soundscapes, Data Science, Ecology, Wildlife Biology, R Coding, Data Visualization
Location: Fort Collins, Colorado

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.

POSITION DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS

Project Description: This position will work in the Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division (NSNSD), a division of the Washington Office (WASO) Natural Resource Stewardship and Science Directorate, based in Fort Collins, Colorado. NSNSD provides policy, technical assistance, and operational guidance to all NPS park units related to the protection of night sky and acoustic resources. This is a technical, desk/computer-based position either stationed in Fort Collins, CO or may be remote. The SIP will assist the bioacoustics specialist(s) with bioacoustics projects at NSNSD. Specifically, the intern will develop workflows and methodology for analyzing approximately 5 terabytes of acoustic monitoring data collected to examine biodiversity impacts of simulated beaver structures (SBS) at Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO). The intern will develop skills in R, data analysis and visualization, computation of acoustic indices, automated detection of focal species, identification of birds and/or other animals by ear, searching and synthesizing pertinent scientific literature, and translating complex technical material into relevant and digestible narratives for park staff. The intern will be exposed to bioacoustics software packages and learn about the challenges of managing and processing terabytes of audio data. Though not based in a park, the intern will have the opportunity to do a field visit and/or presentation to ROMO staff.

Work Products: Final deliverables will include one or more reports (potentially in R Markdown), data visualizations, new R scripts and functions for processing and visualizing data, and a presentation to the partner park.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical/Natural Environment: This is a technical, desk/computer-based position either stationed remotely or in Fort Collins, CO. Fort Collins is located in northern Colorado along the Front Range. It has a growing population of approximately 165,000 and is home to Colorado State University. The city is located at ~5000 feet elevation, with low humidity and average summer high and low temperatures of 87°F and 59°F, respectively. Although the city itself is ecologically plains/grassland, Fort Collins is approximately an hour's drive from Rocky Mountain National Park. It is also approximately an hour drive to Denver or Boulder to the south, or Cheyenne, WY to the north.

Work Environment: Whether remote or stationed in Fort Collins, the position is office and computer-based. If in Fort Collins, the intern can (if desired) be based at the NPS NRSS building at 1201 Oakridge Drive in Fort Collins. The intern will have a designated desk space and workstation, and access to office amenities such as microwave, electric tea kettle, and small gym with shower. Standing desk workstation options may be available.

QUALIFICATIONS

We desire at least a minimum familiarity with R or similar coding tools for data analysis, and a background in ecology / wildlife biology.

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.



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VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant will not need to drive a government vehicle.

A personal vehicle is 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. Park housing is NOT available. The intern has the option of a fully remote internship or living locally in the Fort Collins, CO area, depending on their needs and circumstances. Fair market rent prices in Fort Collins are high compared to the national average (\$1088 for studio/efficiency, \$1187 for 1-bedroom), although lower prices can be found for temporary summer sublets and roommates. If choosing to live in Fort Collins for the summer, a personal vehicle or at minimum a bicycle are highly recommended for getting around.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 05/16/2022

Number of Weeks: 12

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

12 Weeks (\$525.00/week = \$6300.00)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

350.00

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



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.



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