



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Summer 2022

NPS UNIT: Water Resources Division

Position #: 172

Position Title: Ecology Assistant

Primary natural resource discipline: Physical Sciences

Position Keywords: climate, sea level rise, adaptation, resilience

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: NPS Regional Natural Resource Chiefs identified sea level rise as a priority topic for ocean and coastal National Parks. The purpose of this internship is to work with coastal parks to help them understand and plan for sea level rise (SLR) issues in their units, to educate their visitors, and to help park resource managers consider options for implementing the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework as it relates to SLR.

The intern will work to further several goals associated with this topic, including:

- 1) Providing ocean, coastal and Great Lakes parks with SLR information, tools (e.g., sea level rise web resilience/adaptation tools as well as local sea level rise data and modeling that can be used to investigate park specific scenarios and vulnerabilities). This information may be shared and communicated with parks in a variety of ways, including developing materials to be posted on NPS websites, briefs, virtual or in-person training sessions or workshops for park and regional personnel, or other creative methods that the intern may bring to the table.
- 2) Providing education and outreach to parks and visitors about local SLR impacts, how parks are addressing these impacts, and how visitors or community residents can make a difference.
- 3) Providing information related to the SLR and the RAD framework, including options available to park managers to address SLR impacts through such means as restoration, building resilience, and pro-actively adapting to existing and projected changes.
- 4) Collaborating with other ocean and coastal project personnel (e.g., coastal restoration) to synthesize SLR resources focused on resilience and adaptation planning as related to ocean and coastal park resources (natural, cultural and recreational).

Work Products: 1) Update and disseminate SLR information and tools to parks and stakeholders to allow them to better plan for SLR impacts. Products may include updating websites and online mapping, holding webinars or workshops, or other related informational tools.

2) Develop park-specific outreach tools to educate new park personnel and visitors about local SLR impacts, how the park is pro-actively addressing SLR, and how visitors or community residents can make a difference.

Anticipated products include SLR displays that can be tailored to specific park resources and conditions and interactive and web-based products.

3) Synthesize SLR resources focused on resilience and adaptation planning as related to ocean, coastal and Great Lakes park resources (natural, cultural and recreational). Products may include online resources (summaries and links to related research and management), case studies, mapping, or other products that parks may find useful.

4) Compile and develop materials that will help parks build resilience and integrate climate change and SLR projections into their planning and prioritization (e.g., assess likely ecological impacts of SLR at parks; model pathways for marsh and other coastal habitat migration/shifts; and develop a literature database focused on projected coastal biota range/distribution changes associated with SLR for use in considering needs to maintain/restore habitat for TES species and other critical ecosystem functions)

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT



POSITION DESCRIPTION Summer 2022

This internship will be based in the NPS office building in Fort Collins and/or from the intern's home, depending on the telework situation due to COVID-19; no field work is planned at this time. Fort Collins, CO is located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains with great access to hiking, biking, fishing, skiing and other outdoor activities. Rocky Mountain National Park is a ~ 1-hour drive from town. The weather in Fort Collins is cold in the winter with occasional snow, mild in the spring, and hot/dry in the summer. Fort Collins is home to Colorado State University and has great local restaurants, bike trails, parks, live music and entertainment, and an historic downtown area. This is an office position.

QUALIFICATIONS

Currently pursuing or completed a degree in Climate Change, Oceanography, Coastal/Marine Ecology, Coastal Engineering or Modelling, Coastal Processes or related field with a basic understanding of ecology. Advanced GIS skills and experience with ArcGIS online (managing, publishing, and editing hosted features, creating web maps) and/or programming/modeling preferred; experience with natural resource/science communication also would be helpful. Must be good at written and oral communication, be self-directed, and be able to work well both independently and with others.

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 recommended 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. Rent costs start at around \$700/month and vary depending on furnishings, number of roommates, amenities, and location. Because Fort Collins is home to both Colorado State University and Front Range Community College, there may be sublet options available.

INTERNSHIP DATES

Start Date: 06/06/2022

Number of Weeks: 52

Flexible Start Date: Yes

LIVING ALLOWANCE

52 Weeks (\$525.00/week = \$27300.00)

RELOCATION ALLOWANCE

350.00

AMERICORPS PROGRAM



POSITION DESCRIPTION Summer 2022



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.

