



VetsWork AmeriCorps Position Description

Position Title: Ecological Restoration Intern

Project Sponsor: Monongahela National Forest
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/mnf/>

Project Location: Marlinton-White Sulphur Ranger District, 1627 Cemetery Road, Marlinton, WV 24954

Project Sponsor Mission: The mission of the USDA Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Mt. Adams Institute Mission: VetsWork is a program of the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI). MAI's mission is to strengthen the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research. Learn more at: www.mtadamsinstitute.org

Position Summary: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute, the Monongahela National Forest offers an intern the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and work experiences in Ecological Restoration. The Monongahela National Forest is one of the most ecologically diverse forests in the National Forest System. The Forest's rare ecosystems are home to some of the highest concentrations of rare, threatened, and endangered species remaining in the eastern United States. With restoration and management efforts this landscape can serve as a 'stronghold' for wildlife and a crucial bridge between the northern and southern Appalachians. The intern will assist the Forest in various areas with an emphasis in ecology, botany and wildlife.

This field going position will assist with restoration efforts in priority habitats such as Red Spruce forests and pollinator habitat. Intern will work with partners (e.g. Green Forests Work, West Virginia Division of Natural Resources, Rivers and Gorges Cooperative Weed and Pest Management Area, Ruffed Grouse Society, The Nature Conservancy, Greenbrier River Watershed Association) to implement restoration projects. Most of the work will be performed outside under all weather conditions across the District. There will also be opportunities to work with community members to raise awareness of forest conservation issues and to engage them in stewardship activities on their public lands.

General Responsibilities (to include, but not limited to):

1. Work with partners to implement ecological restoration projects and improve wildlife habitat.
2. Assist with projects to include the health and resiliency of habitats which could include the use of a chainsaw, herbicide application, mechanical treatments, or prescribed fire.
3. Identify, inventory, and monitor populations of rare native plant species and non-native invasive species.
4. Assist with the propagation of native plants including seed collecting, sowing seeds, processing cuttings, and transplanting seedlings.
5. Organize and host tree planting events.
6. Support and co-lead volunteer and educational programs to engage others in the stewardship of their national forest.
7. Develop and perform outdoor presentations to engage a variety of audiences, including underserved youth, while promoting conservation and ecological restoration.
8. Maintain accurate records and complete data entry in an information tracking system.
9. Assist in timber sale preparation activities.
10. Complete a Community Action Project that is identified by the Intern, researched, and implemented during the term of service.
11. Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps training and service requirements including orientation, trainings, team meetings and national service days.
12. Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
13. Wear an MAI uniform and/or appropriate identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

Position Requirements:

1. Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation. Must comply with Driver Certification and Safety Agreement (see VetsWork Application Documents on website).
2. Attend a mandatory orientation in Dover, TN, OR from 3/02 to 3/06 and a mid-term training (food and lodging provided for orientation and trainings).
3. Ability and willingness to serve outdoors and in inclement weather at times.
4. Ability and willingness to become chain saw qualified and herbicide certified to assist with ecology/wildlife habitat improvement work.
5. Communicate and interact with others in a respectful, inclusive, and professional manner.
6. Ability and willingness to work in remote mountainous terrain.
7. Ability to hike over varied and steep terrain for several miles while carrying light to heavy loads of equipment and supplies.
8. Interest in scientific fields related to wildlife habitat management, ecology, and botany.
9. Computer literate with the ability to perform routine tasks with standard software such as Microsoft Office.
10. Forest Service will provide field apparel (including appropriate field uniform). The employee will provide hiking boots. Project gear and specific personal protective equipment (e.g. hard hat, field vest, and gloves) will be issued to the employee by the Forest Service for use when conducting work assignments.
11. Strong communication skills.
12. A cooperative manner and the ability to serve as part of a diverse team.
13. Meet other requirements of federal employee (eg. background check)
14. Must have served in US Armed Forces and have a DD214 with an honorable discharge.
15. 21 years of age at beginning of service term.
16. U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.

17. Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
18. Ability to commit to the full 45-week term of service.
19. Selection, placement and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Register and a national FBI fingerprint check. Position does have recurring access to vulnerable populations.
20. Members are eligible to serve up to four terms of service and receive AmeriCorps Education awards for each term of service up to the value of two full time education awards only. It is the responsibility of the applicant to inform MAI of any previous service in an AmeriCorps program, regardless of whether or not they completed the previous term(s) of service. MAI is not liable for providing an Education Award to a member if they are not eligible under the Corporation for National and Community Service AmeriCorps guidelines.

Preferred Qualifications:

1. Education, training, and experience in natural resource fields (e.g. forestry, wildlife habitat management, ecology, botany, environmental sciences).
2. Experience using various hand tools (e.g., ax, cross-cut saw, etc.) and mechanized equipment (e.g. chain saw).
3. Experience with plant ID, GPS unit, GIS, and backpacking
4. Strong written and verbal skills.

Member Benefits Include:

1. A total taxable living allowance (before taxes) of \$15,750, paid over term of service.
2. Upon successful completion of a term of service, eligible members receive an education award of \$6,095. The education award can be used to repay qualified student loans, for further education in an accredited institution of higher learning, vocational or trade schools. The education award is taxed in the year that it is used.
3. Loan forbearance (after successful completion of a term of service, AmeriCorps will pay the accrued interest on qualified loans, which is taxable).
4. Basic medical insurance (covers members only, not dependents; vision and dental not included).
5. Child care allowance for those who qualify.
6. VetsWork is an apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor. Members with G.I. Bill benefits may be able to dual enroll as an apprentice and access their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) of up to approximately \$2,400 per month. Actual benefits vary by individuals' qualified benefits.
7. Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.
8. Housing assistance provided by service site.

Transportation Information:

1. Project site is not accessible by public transportation. Rural location makes a personal vehicle preferred.
2. Agency/Organization vehicles are available for work-related travel.
3. Intern is responsible for travel to and from orientation and to and from duty station.

Equal Opportunity:

People of color, people with disabilities, veterans and LGBTQ candidates are strongly encouraged to apply. MAI is committed to a diverse workplace and to supporting our staff with ongoing career

development opportunities. MAI is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its employment decisions.

MAI provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees as required by law. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation at any point in the employment process.

Application Instructions Below

Application Deadline: Open Until Filled

Interviews: Will occur as qualified applications are received.

Type of position: Individual Placement

Service Dates March 2, 2020 to January 15, 2021

Length of Term: 1700 hours

How to apply:

Submit the following materials by email to katie@mtadamsinstitute.org. If you are selected for a position additional documents will be required.

1. A resume including three professional references (These could be military, civilian, or academic.)
2. A separate cover letter for each position in which you are interested in applying.
3. A copy of your DD 214 with an honorable discharge (general under honorable conditions discharge considered on a case-by-case basis). This needs to be the long form Member 4 copy which has 30 total boxes of information.
4. Read "VetsWork Frequently Asked Questions" and "Is VetsWork Right for Me?" found at <https://mtadamsinstitute.org/internships/#vetswork> under the VetsWork Application Documents heading.

Questions? Contact Katie Schmidt at katie@mtadamsinstitute.org or 509-395-3465
Mt. Adams Institute
2453 HWY 141, Trout Lake, WA 98650

Checklist for initial INTERN APPLICATION

Forms can be mailed or scanned and emailed to Katie Schmidt.

- Resume**
- DD214**
- Separate cover letter** for each position for which you are applying.
- In the submission email list positions in order of preference if applying for more than one**

