



PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

SOUTHWEST REGION

4820 ROUTE 711 BOLIVAR, PA 15923 | 1-833-742-4868 (PGC HUNT) & 1-833-742-9453 (PGC WILD)

Pennsylvania Game Commission – Southwest Region Summer Internships 2024 Wildlife Biology, Habitat Management, and Forestry

Location

Pennsylvania Game Commission, Southwest Region
4820 Route 711, Bolivar, PA 15923

Salary, Starting Date, Work Location

- 6 Engineering, Scientific & Technical Interns – 2 each in wildlife biology, habitat management, and forestry.
- Wages: \$16.67/hour; up to 40 hours/week
- Hours: Monday thru Friday from 7am – 4:30pm depending on tract selected, tasks, and weather; occasional evening and weekend work.
- Maximum of 749 hours/calendar year
- Anticipated Starting Date – May 13, 2024
- Located in the 10 counties of southwest PA; 52 state game lands comprising 220,00 acres of habitat.

Learning Objectives

Are you thinking of a career in conservation but lack field training and experience? If so, the Pennsylvania Game Commission's summer internship program is designed for you!

Pennsylvania's wildlife agency seeks hard-working, highly motivated students eager to develop their conservation knowledge and skills while experiencing all the agency has to offer. The primary purpose of these positions is to provide college students with an opportunity to gain practical experience and develop their professional skills related to wildlife management practices and techniques for biological and population data collection, habitat management including forestry, and public speaking and presentation development. These internships are highly competitive because they provide invaluable on-the-job experience for those interested in pursuing environmental careers.

Successful applicants will work with regional forestry, habitat management, or wildlife biology staff to gain valuable insight into applied wildlife and habitat management and conservation. Interns will be assigned cross-discipline field days to experience the diversity of contributions each profession makes to conserving and protecting the natural resources of PA.

Job Descriptions

Wildlife Management

Wildlife biology intern duties will primarily involve the collection of biological data and conducting wildlife and/or habitat surveys under the guidance of regional biologists. Examples include but are not limited to chronic wasting disease sampling and other wildlife disease surveillance, participating in banding ducks, geese and doves, conducting bird and bat surveys, black bear capture and tagging, developing and marking habitat projects, locating turkeys using telemetry, equipment maintenance, and camera trap and nest box monitoring. Wildlife biology interns will be expected to create a presentation in a format to be decided for use by other personnel about a PA wildlife conservation topic of interest.

Habitat Management

Habitat management interns will be assigned to the regional office and work with land managers and habitat crews on state game lands. Interns will gain hands-on experience as they work side-by-side with habitat management crew members. They will learn how to safely operate and maintain farm implements and power/hand tools, and assist with maintenance and construction of gates, parking lots, boundary lines bridges and other infrastructure related projects. They will gain experience in enhancing herbaceous, shrubland, forested and wetland habitats, and be introduced to our comprehensive planning process which provides the foundation for all work completed within the state game lands system. Under supervision, interns can expect to learn about proper herbicide application (hand and mechanical) to treat invasive species, as well as the use of prescribed fire to enhance habitats. They may be asked to collect data related to infrastructure and OGM features for input into the GIS database.

Forestry

The selected interns will assist the Southwest Region forestry staff with the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of activities designed to manage, protect, and enhance forest resources on state game lands within the Southwest Region of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. The work may include but is not limited to marking and surveying boundary on wildlife habitat improvement projects, marking timber and determining volumes, reserve trees, collecting stand data, assisting proper herbicide application to control undesirable plants in forest stands, collecting state game lands data for input into the GIS database, assisting with prescribed fire activities, and performing other duties as assigned. Common forestry tools will be utilized in the completion of assigned work.

Other Duties

Interns may be assigned to assist the Information and Education Supervisor by preparing for and delivering public presentations, providing support to agency personnel providing these programs, and maintaining equipment and supplies for these programs. They may be asked to present information to the public using a developed presentation about bear life history, wildlife forensics, and/or hunter education.

Job Requirements

- Valid driver's license.
- Be enrolled full time (≥ 12 credits) in a Bachelor's or Associate's degree in a science, technical, or engineering program such as wildlife/fisheries science, biology, natural resource management, ecology, forestry, botany, ecology, engineering, or related field. A graduating high school student who is 18 and enrolled in college for the fall semester is eligible.
- Must be returning to school for at least 12 credits in Fall 2024.
- Self-motivated and able to follow verbal and written instructions.
- Able to work outdoors under a variety of field conditions including adverse weather conditions and traversing long distances over rugged/uneven terrain.
- Good interpersonal skills and works well in a team setting.
- Communicate effectively orally and in writing and interact with Game Commission personnel and the public in a professional manner.
- Supportive of PGC's mission to manage and protect wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.
- Adhere to all rules and recommendations regarding personal protective equipment, and safely use knives, scalpels and other cutting equipment, hand/power tools, farm equipment, archery equipment, and/or firearms per agency directive or as directed by supervisor.
- Proficient in the use of computers (Microsoft Office programs), smart devices, and GPS units.

To Apply

Persons who wish to apply for the position must be a student who will return to college in the fall of the same year of employment.

Applicants must provide a résumé, proof of current college enrollment (for high school students, proof of college acceptance), and fall enrollment (official transcripts are not required; fall enrollment information must be provided before the start-date) and contact information for 3 references **via email**.

Send applications to: **PGC-SW-Internships@pa.gov**

Subject line: "Summer Intern Program". The body of the email must indicate which internship(s) you are interested in applying for.

Applications must be received by midnight, 16 February 2024.

Questions? 1.833.PGC.HUNT or 1.833.PGC.WILD and ask for...

Mr. Neil Itle, Regional Forester, Southwest Region

Mr. Matt Lucas, Land Management Supervisor, Southwest Region

Ms. Samara Trusso, Wildlife Management Supervisor, Southwest Region