



PA Game Commission – Northwest Region 2024 Summer Internships

Are you excited to begin a career in conservation but lack field training and experience? Do you want your first steps to contribute to the management and protection of wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping? If so, your goals align with the mission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission and our 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.

Available Opportunities and Learning Objectives:

Internship opportunities are available within four disciplines – forestry, habitat management, information & education, and wildlife biology. Descriptions of each are provided below. We encourage you to apply to one or more opportunities depending on your interests. If awarded an internship, you will focus primarily on the designated subject area; however, exposure to and collaboration across disciplines will occur frequently and is considered an important part of the experience.

Forestry Internship (2 positions)

Work location(s): *NW Region (Butler, Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango, and Warren counties)*
The focus on habitat separates this internship from other introductions to forestry. Our forest management decisions impact wildlife as they shape the stage, quality, and quantity of forested habitat. Interns will report to and work daily with professional foresters. These foresters will provide a comprehensive look at forest management, how decisions are made, and what steps are involved. Interns will hone skills in tree, shrub, and plant identification. They will become familiar with timber typing, vegetative surveys (silvah plots & stem counts), project layout, and forestry practices that create desired habitat conditions. Under supervision, interns will also experience tally and marking, herbicide application, timber sale/project administration, and road layout.

Habitat Management Internship (3 positions)

Work Location(s): *NW Regional Office, Venango County (41.3674, -79.8603)*

Providing hunters, trappers, and wildlife enthusiasts access to premier wildlife habitats is key to our mission. Interns will be assigned to one of six land management groups responsible for over 65 state game lands covering more than 200,000 acres of habitat. Interns will gain hands-on experience in habitat management as they work side-by-side with crew members. They will learn how to safely operate farm implements and power/hand tools, and assist with infrastructure maintenance of gates, parking lots, boundary lines and propagation areas. 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.

**Information and Education Internship (1 position)**

Work Location: *NW Regional Office, Venango County (41.3674, -79.8603)*

One key factor to a successful conservation agency is remaining relevant. The objective of this internship is to provide experience in the development and delivery of content that promotes the mission and values of the PA Game Commission. The intern will be immersed in operations to foster a comprehensive understanding of the agency's programs, goals, and accomplishments. Through the guidance of the regional information and education supervisor, the intern will develop content and draft articles for publication; assist in creating videos, posts, podcasts, and other efforts to publicize agency activities and events; create, package, and inventory promotional displays and items; coordinate and edit field note submissions; become familiar with Wildlife on Wi-Fi and other virtual educational platforms; assist and develop R3 outreach events; communicate with the marketing bureau to coordinate and publicize regional events; and inventory and update agency publications.

Wildlife Biology Internship (2 positions)

Work Location(s): *Erie Area (42.1291, -80.0850) or Clarion Area (41.2147, -79.3852)*

This internship will offer real-world experience in the field of wildlife biology. Interns will be paired with agency biologists and assist with wildlife management duties. Duties will include black bear capture and tagging, acoustic sampling (bats & N. flying squirrels), shorebird nest monitoring and protection, nest box surveys, waterfowl and mourning dove banding, trap maintenance, habitat plan development, and various other wildlife and habitat surveys. Agency biologists will relate how data gathered impacts management decisions and population goals. Collaboration across professional disciplines will be encouraged to enhance outcomes and related objectives. Interns will also gain experience in equipment operation (GPS, UTV, kayak, motorboat, 4X4 and hand and power tools). Projects will occur throughout the NW region; however, daily reporting will be to one of the above general locations.

Salary and Starting Date:

Engineering, Scientific & Technical Intern

\$16.67/hour for 40 hours/week

Monday – Friday, 7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (subject to change)

Maximum of 749 hours/calendar year

Anticipated starting date: May 13, 2024*

Anticipated ending date: August 16, 2024*

Subject to change based on student availability before/after these dates

Job Requirements and Qualifications:

Work will be outdoors and involve traversing uneven terrain in all-weather conditions. The selected applicant must have a valid driver's license. Preferred candidates will have college level course work or experience in the fields of wildlife, forestry, or natural resource management.

- **Must be enrolled as a full-time student – carrying 12 credits.**
- **Students must be enrolled in a post-secondary program in a technical, scientific, or engineering field of study. School credit will be determined by the college/university.**



- A graduating High School student who is 18 and enrolled in the fall semester is eligible to apply.

Qualifications:

- Hard-working and motivated
- Positive attitude and eager to learn
- Professional communication skills
- Open to collaboration/working with others
- Supportive of PGC's mission to manage and protect wildlife and their habitats while promoting hunting and trapping for current and future generations.
- Valid driver's license
- Preferred candidates will have college-level coursework or experience in the fields of wildlife, forestry, natural resource management, environmental education, communications, and/or marketing.

Additional Information:

You will participate in training the first week of your internship. This training will expose you to our culture and provide an overall picture of our agency/region. This introduction will provide a knowledge base to draw upon for the remainder of the internship and beyond.

Rewards:

Our goal is to mentor and recruit the next generation of conservation professionals. As an intern, you will explore career and agency opportunities, gaining an inside look into your future. You will develop specialized skill sets through hands-on application while being mentored by professionals within your field of study. You will receive a midterm and final evaluation, providing a forum for constructive feedback and questions. You will collaborate with other conservationists and participate in agency meetings, forming relationships you can build on in the future. Finally, interns who successfully complete the program may be considered for future employment opportunities with our agency.

To Apply:

Internship applicants must be current full-time students who will return to college in fall of the same year of employment. ****All interested persons must submit current resume and proof of college enrollment which must include students' name/ID number, University/College they are attending, the degree and courses they are enrolled in and number credits to PGC-NW-Internships@pa.gov.**** Applicants must also specify which discipline(s) and work locations they would like to be considered for. Proof of Fall 2024 enrollment may be provided at a later date (but prior to commencement of the internship). Interviews will be conducted to select the employee. All resumes must be postmarked **on or before February 16, 2024**.

Questions?

Forestry Internships – Contact Scott Wolbert at swolbert@pa.gov.

Habitat Management Internships – Contact Jesse Bish at jebish@pa.gov

Information and Education Internships – Contact Dan Schmidt at dschmidt@pa.gov.

Wildlife Biology Internships – Contact Tim Hoppe at thoppe@pa.gov.