

Natural Resources Aid

Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) Student Internship Position

Location: Rhinelander, WI

A. INTRODUCTION

The Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) is offering this Internship opportunity for Native American students pursuing degrees in the Natural Resources sciences. This position is located in the USDA – Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service – Wildlife Services (WS) District Office in Rhinelander, WI. The incumbent serves as a natural resources aid, assisting the District Supervisor in providing services for a variety of cooperative wildlife damage management programs. Wildlife Services (WS) partners with a variety of agencies and groups, including Wisconsin Tribes, Wisconsin DNR, US Forest Service, and others. Services provided by WS in Wisconsin include nuisance black bear management, wolf depredation management, the protection of coldwater ecosystems, roads, bridges and forest resources from impacts caused by beaver, and the protection of crops and livestock from damage caused by bear, deer, turkeys and geese. Special projects related to wildlife damage management will be developed with a Tribal natural resources department in north central or north east Wisconsin.

B. Major Duties and Requirements

- Assists in responding to complaints from the general public and agencies regarding black bears that are causing nuisance or human health and safety concerns. Requires communicating with individuals and providing advice and recommendations, as well as field investigations of problem sites. May also include the live trapping and relocation of certain bears.
- Assists field staff with investigations into agricultural damage caused by species eligible for the Wisconsin Wildlife Damage Abatement and Claims Program (WDACP). Communicates with farmers and other agricultural producers about the program and eligibility requirements, learns to identify wildlife damage to crops and assists in providing damage abatement information and equipment/supplies.
- Conducts assigned activities related to coldwater ecosystem protection, including surveying streams for the presence of beaver dams and removing beaver dams as needed. Duties may also include assisting field staff with the removal of beaver as needed.
- Assists on special projects in areas of the state away from duty station, including cormorant, resident Canada goose, and wildlife hazards at airports management activities.
- Assists in the maintenance of equipment and office/warehouse facilities and the transfer of equipment and supplies to field staff.
- May serve as an incidental motor vehicle operator on public and private roads, including rural forest roads, during daylight and after dark as needed to perform the duties of the position. The possession of a valid state driver's license is a requirement of the position.
- Required to maintain an accurate diary of daily activities as well as complete time and attendance and other reports as necessary.

C. Evaluation Factors

Knowledge and Skills Required by Position

The WTCAC intern should have a basic knowledge of Wisconsin wildlife species, including identification, habitat, and behavior. Knowledge of customary Wisconsin agricultural practices would be helpful.

Intern should have some experience in driving 4-wheel drive vehicles, including experience on rural roads such as might be found in National Forests or other remote public land situations. Experience in towing trailers would be helpful.

Intern should have some experience in navigating in wildland environments, such as use of GPS units, maps and compass, and use of canoes.

Supervisory Controls

This is considered a training position. Assignments and activities are directed by the supervisor, and are performed by incumbent on a continuing basis. Direction and appropriate training is provided as necessary for assigned activities. However, the incumbent may work in areas where a supervisor is not immediately present and will be required to utilize initiative in accomplishing work tasks. Incumbent will frequently assist other field staff who may provide direction and training. Work is reviewed by supervisor for accuracy, effectiveness and adherence to policy.

Physical Demands

The assigned work requires regular traversing terrain in agricultural environments (fields, farmyards, pastures) and wildland environments (undeveloped forest and wetland) in a variety of weather conditions, including heat, humidity, rain and cold. Bending and lifting of supplies and equipment necessary to complete work tasks is required. Some work tasks may include long periods in an office environment, including sitting at desks and utilizing office machines, such as computer keyboards and telephones.