

Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program- 2024

Internship Site: Mad River Valley (Waitsfield, Warren, Fayston, VT)

Description:

Background – The world renowned biologist E. O. Wilson has stated that invasive species are the second leading cause of biodiversity loss. The Vermont Agency for Natural Resources confirms this finding, stating that the second greatest threat to biodiversity, in Vermont and across the world, is the proliferation of invasive species. According to Vermont Invasives “Vermont Non-native, invasive terrestrial plants are one of the greatest threats to the health of Northeastern forests. They negatively impact forest regeneration, forest structure, ecosystem function, recreation and wildlife habitat, are costly to manage, and can

Concerned about this threat to the health and functioning of ecosystems the three conservation commissions in Mad River Valley have been working for years, with some notable success, to address a significant infestation of Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*). A concentrated effort has been made to halt its spread along upper elevation roadways and waterways and to restore floodplain forests along the Mad River. Experts from U.S. Fish and Wildlife and leading conservation organizations in Vermont have noted that these initiatives represent some of the best local work on Japanese Knotweed in the state. This work has been accomplished through a partnership between members of the Warren, Waitsfield and Fayston Conservations Commissions, community and UVM interns. In 2023, eight interns were engaged by the three commissions

For 2024, the three towns are looking to engage a team of interns as Invasive Species Field Technicians.

The Technicians, who will work together on a team, will

- continue efforts to arrest the spread, using manual methods, of Japanese Knotweed in identified locations in Warren, Waitsfield, and Fayston
- initiate targeted work to control selected other terrestrial plant invasive species in the Mad River Valley
- use social media, newspaper articles, or in-person educational events to educate community members, including young students, about invasive species and how best to manage them;
- work alongside community volunteers in invasive species management
- conduct an ecological assessment of terrestrial plant invasive species in Warren, Waitsfield and Fayston (involving identification and mapping of such species)
- research on evidence-based management practices for controlling other terrestrial plant invasive species targeted for attention in 2024

Overall, we are looking for the team

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

Ability to work well with others

GIS mapping and invasive species interest and/or coursework.

Passionate about restoring healthy, functioning ecosystems dealing with the threat v mvdpect1 (e)1 5(d)-1 b

3. You should now see the great Perennial Internship opportunities! Click “View Details” to learn more about each position.

- Please do take the time to carefully read each individual description so that you don't miss a great opportunity by judging an internship solely on its title.
- You may apply for up to three Perennial Internships.
- All applications are due by 11:59pm, on Monday, February 5th, 2024.

4. You'll need to upload both required documents in Handshake before you can apply for any Perennial Internship:

- Click on your name at top right of screen in Handshake
- Select Documents.

5. Please upload all documents as pdfs. The following are the required documents:

- Resume
- Cover Letter

i. You should write and upload a unique cover letter for each position to which you are applying.

ii. In your cover letter, provide the name & contact information for at least one professional reference. This could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/v(r)-2 (J /TT1 1C)-2 (or)-2 ()5 9 b 1CsopiTJ

