



Native Seed Interns

**Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service and US Forest Service,
Nevada State Office/Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest/Reno FWS Office/Great
Basin Institute**

Member will provide national service at Bureau of Land Management, US Fish & Wildlife Service, or Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, host sites for the AmeriCorps Intern Program.

Description:

The Great Basin Institute, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is recruiting six (6) Native Seed Interns to join our AmeriCorps program to conduct seed collecting and ecological restoration activities throughout the Great Basin on Department of Interior (DOI) and Forest Service (USFS) lands.

Primary Responsibilities:

- Scouting and identifying populations of target native plant species suitable for the program;
- GPS mapping populations of plants, disturbance areas, and other features using tablets, handheld devices, ArcGIS Online, ArcMap, and ArcCollector;
- Monitoring the phenology of plant populations to identify optimal seed collection times;
- Collecting seed from plant populations for both restoration and conservation collections and completing data forms in accordance with the Seeds of Success (SOS) Technical Protocol;
- Processing and shipping seed;
- Taking herbarium vouchers, and processing and shipping as necessary.
- Collecting tissue samples for genetic analysis and processing and shipping;
- Recording data electronically and on paper data forms, entering and editing data related to restoration activities;
- Photographing collection sites and plants;
- Maintenance and regular inventory of field gear;
- Daily and monthly vehicle checks, driving up to 5 hours a day;
- Assisting with the coordination of conservation crew work;
- Assisting with the coordination of volunteer seed collection and restoration events;
- Provide support for arid land restoration projects;
- Monitoring and maintenance of reciprocal transplant study plots;
- Reporting accomplishments and providing recommendations for program improvements, priorities, and future projects.

Related Responsibilities:

- Participate in trainings provided by BLM, US Fish & Wildlife, and USFS staff and community partners;
- Meet with Host Site Supervisor on a regular basis;



- Participate in required national service days; and
- Participate in regular AmeriCorps team meetings.

Physical Demands:

Field work involves driving GBI or Forest Service trucks on both highways and 4WD roads, often for 100+ miles per day as well as hiking off designated trails or routes, across rugged terrain, up to 5 miles per day, but more typically 0-1 mile per day. Seed collection requires regular stooping, standing and maneuvering on uneven terrain for many hours a day. Weather conditions will vary from cold winds or rain in the early spring to temperatures over 100F in the summer. The use of global positioning systems (handheld GPS units), computers, PDAs, digital cameras, and on- and off-road vehicles are an essential part of the job. Camping under primitive conditions at remote locations on data collection trips will often be required. Schedules are often determined by plant phenology. Incumbents must also be willing to spend days at a time working at a computer during periods of data entry and analysis.

- Lift up to 50-70 pounds of material or equipment
- Bend, lift, pull, and push
- Crouch, stoop, kneel, stand, or bend for long periods of time
- Drive for many hours a day on highways and 4WD roads.
- Handle plant material for many hours a day.
- Walk and stand for long periods of time on uneven surfaces carrying equipment
- Be outside in extreme heat or cold (depending upon the season)
- Occasionally work 10+ hour days
- Travel and camp overnight & up to 8 days at a time for project work

Compensation:

1. Living Allowance stipend=*\$11,830
2. AmeriCorps Education Award**\$3,047.50
3. Medical, dental and vision insurance provided at no cost

* Final living allowance amount and AmeriCorps Education Award value are determined by the length of the appointment

**AmeriCorps Education Award may be used for past, present or future education experiences, including payment of qualifying federal student loans. Loan forbearance and accrued interest payment on qualifying student loans is also available.

Locations:

Multiple positions are available in Nevada. Please indicate your availability and preferred locations/positions when applying. We encourage applying early in order to gain the best chance at getting your top-choice locations.

BLM Location: Battle Mountain, NV.

- April through October (25 weeks)



FWS Location: Reno, NV (working primarily in Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge and Winnemucca BLM district)

- April through October (25 weeks)

USFS Location: Reno, NV (working primarily in Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest and adjacent BLM lands)

- April through October (25 weeks)

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers 47.5 million acres of public land in Nevada alone. Crews will rove between multiple locations across the BLM districts of the Great Basin. The area is home to historic mining and ranching that conjure up images of the Wild West. The Great Basin's mountain ranges and wide open valleys are home to wildlife, livestock and wild horses and burros.

The Reno U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office's mission is to conserve the natural biological diversity of the Great Basin, eastern Sierra of Nevada, and adjacent portions of eastern California. The Reno Fish and Wildlife Office works closely with many partners to conserve and recover native species throughout these states.

Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge protects more than half a million acres of high desert habitat for large wintering herds of pronghorn antelope, scattered bands of bighorn sheep, and a rich assortment of other wildlife, and is one of the few intact sagebrush steppe ecosystems in the Great Basin. The landscape is vast, rugged, and punctuated with waterfalls, narrow gorges, and lush springs among rolling hills and expansive tablelands of sagebrush and mountain mahogany.

The Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest's spectacular 6.3 million acres makes it the largest national forest in the lower 48 states. Located in Nevada and a small portion of eastern California, The Forest's landscapes range from towering snow-capped peaks to wide-open sage steppe. Elevation varies from a low of 4,100 feet to a high of 12,374 feet, providing a great diversity of habitats. The vegetation changes from wide open desert with cactus and scrub to ponderosa pine forests, which in turn give way to spruce and aspen then lodgepole pine and alpine tundra.

Battle Mountain, NV is located ~220 miles east of Reno, NV and ~300 west of Salt Lake City, UT along Interstate 80. Battle Mountain and the surrounding area (pop. ~4,000) is predominantly rural; situated in the high desert (~4,500 ft. elevation) where ranching/mining are the local economic drivers. The Mount Lewis Field Office within the Battle Mountain District Office is responsible for managing approximately 4.5 million acres of public land typically of basin-and-range topography with Great Basin Desert/sage brush steppe ecotype.

Reno: The Reno-Sparks metropolitan area is home to approximately 500,000 people and offers year-round recreation opportunities, a vibrant urban scene and numerous community events. Reno has over 300 days of sunshine and four distinct seasons. Located on the northwestern



edge of Nevada, Reno is a great home base from which to travel to the Great Basin, Lake Tahoe, Sierra Nevada range, San Francisco and more!

Timeline:

- April 2020 – September 2020

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree with coursework and field experience related to biology, botany, ecology, plant science, or related field;
- Experience identifying plants using taxonomic keys or familiarity with plants of the Great Basin;
- Work independently or in pairs with little supervision, strong initiative and high attention to detail;
- Strong interpersonal skills and willingness to work as part of a tight knit team. Most often crews will be two people, which requires interns to co-lead with their co-intern, take initiative, and behave in a manner that promotes team integrity;
- Experience using hand-held GPS equipment for data collection and navigation;
- Ability to read and navigate using topographic maps and a compass;
- Understanding and/or experience using ArcGIS Pro 2.0 software, ArcCollector, and Survey 123, helpful;
- Willingness and ability to work in harsh, ever-changing desert conditions, including extreme temperatures, independently or as part of a team;
- Ability to bend and stoop for long periods of time while collecting seed, and to use hand tools, and occasionally lift buckets of water and other heavy loads;
- Ability to work a non-standard schedule, such as beginning at 5 am, to avoid heat-related issues, to follow plant phenology, or for coordination with team members.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both written and orally, with a diverse audience;
- Willingness to camp in remote, undeveloped sites for multiple days, up to 8 days;
- Valid, state-issued driver's license and familiarity driving 4WD vehicles on- and off-road;
- Experience operating All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) on difficult terrain helpful; and
- Meet AmeriCorps eligibility requirements: (1) U.S. citizenship or legal resident alien status, (2) eligible to receive an AmeriCorps Education Award (limit of four in a lifetime, or equivalent of two full-time terms of service), (3) pass National Sex Offender Public Website (NSOPW) and federal criminal background checks, (4) adhere to the rules, regulations and code of conduct as specified in the Member Service Agreement; and (5) will not engage in any prohibited activities as listed in the Member Service Agreement; and

How to Apply:

Please follow this link to apply directly through our online portal:

<https://www.vscyperhosting.com/greatbasin/Careers.aspx?req=2019-ACI-074&type=JOBDESCR>



The Great Basin Institute conforms to all the laws, statutes, and regulations concerning equal employment opportunities and affirmative action. We strongly encourage women, minorities, individuals with disabilities and veterans to apply to all of our job openings. We are an equal opportunity employer and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin, age, disability status, Genetic Information & Testing, Family & Medical Leave, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law. We prohibit retaliation against individuals who bring forth any complaint, orally or in writing, to the employer or the government, or against any individuals who assist or participate in the investigation of any complaint or otherwise oppose discrimination.

These AmeriCorps positions are made possible by a generous grant from the Nevada Commission for National and Community Service.