



Title: San Bernardino Biological Technician (2 openings)

Start/End Dates: May 28, 2024 – September 13, 2024 (anticipated dates)

Stipend: \$400 per week living stipend + \$200 housing stipend + Education Award.

Term: 16 weeks, Full-Time (40 hours per week)

Reports To: Olyvia Childress (USFWS Assistant Refuge Manager)

Location: San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (7628 N. Highway 191, Douglas, AZ 85607)

Status: 450-hour AmeriCorps Service Term

Benefits: AmeriCorps Education Award \$1,718.25; Public Lands Corps Certificate*; both with successful completion of the internship. The Corps Network health insurance provided by Cigna, AmeriCorps childcare assistance. **On-site housing is available.**

*To be eligible for a Public Lands Corps certificate, interns must be between the ages of 18-30, inclusive, at the time the individual begins the term of service and must complete 640 service hours or more to qualify.

Summary:

Arizona Conservation Corps (AZCC):

Arizona Conservation Corps, a program of Conservation Legacy, aims to continue the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930's. AZCC is focused on connecting youth, young adults, and recent era military veterans with conservation service work projects on public lands. AZCC operates programs across Arizona that engage individuals and strengthen communities through service and conservation. AZCC has program offices in Flagstaff and Tucson.

United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS):

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, working with others, is responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people through Federal programs relating to migratory birds, endangered species, interjurisdictional fish and marine mammals, and inland sport fisheries. As part of its mission, the USFWS is charged with enforcing Federal Wildlife Laws and Protecting Endangered Species.

The 2,369-acre San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR) lies along the international border with Mexico in southeast Arizona's Cochise County. It was established in 1982 for the primary purpose of recovery of native fishes of the Rio Yaqui watershed. The Refuge is headquartered near the small community of Douglas, Arizona.

Position Summary:

The primary role of the two Biological Technician interns is to support the Refuge biology program with tasks including monitoring populations of federally listed fish species, Chiricahua leopard frogs, Huachuca water umbel, and Yellow-billed cuckoos, following established protocols. Other duties may include assisting in bird banding activities and plant management activities. The interns' service will directly aid in the recovery of federally listed species and their associated habitats. Species monitoring

work is critical for understanding population trends to inform management actions. The Biological Technicians may also assist in other programs when opportunities arise, such as maintenance and visitor services. The Biological Technician will draft summary reports for select projects and create an overall presentation of their projects to present to Refuge staff.

The interns will be provided the opportunity to attend annual outreach events such as Southwest Wings Birding Festival where SBNWR has a table each year. Additionally, interns will be exposed to many of the duties of running and managing a National Wildlife Refuge through participation in monthly staff meetings where Administrative, Biological, Management, Law Enforcement, and Maintenance staff all discuss their current tasks and challenges.

Training will be provided in the following: the use of ArcGIS Field Maps application to locate survey sites; how to successfully and correctly implement protocols and associated data recording; how to perform monitoring activities; summary report writing format and content expectations; use of any required equipment. **Housing is available for the interns during their term.**

Essential Responsibilities and Functions:

- Assist refuge biologist with annual monitoring and surveying of populations of federally listed fish species, Chiricahua leopard frogs, Huachuca water umbel, and Yellow-billed cuckoo, either independently or with assistance of the refuge biologist.
- Collect required data and deliver to the refuge biologist.
- Perform data entry as needed.
- Write individual summary reports for monitoring efforts.
- Schedule pond and well monitoring visits to meet needed monitoring frequencies.
- Conduct pond and well monitoring activities.
- Hiking trail clearing.

Minimum Qualifications:

- High school diploma or GED.
- Willing and able to represent Arizona Conservation Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in a professional, positive, and enthusiastic manner.
- Ability to work independently with little to no immediate supervision.
- Ability to perform physical work in extreme weather conditions and terrain, hiking up to 6+ miles per day.
- Must possess good oral and written communication skills, and a strong work ethic.
- Must possess a valid driver's license and an insurable driving record (documentation to be provided upon request).
- Willing to undergo and must pass required criminal history checks.
- Ability to perform the essential duties of the position with or without reasonable accommodation.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Local to the Douglas, Arizona area.
- Tribal affiliation.
- Interest in a natural resource conservation career.
- Strong desire to learn new skills.
- Attention to detail and organizational skills.

Physical Requirements:

- To successfully perform essential functions, the individual is required to sit, stand, walk, speak, hear, etc. May be required to stoop, kneel, crouch or crawl for significant periods of time and be able to safely lift 50 pounds on a routine basis.
- Reasonable accommodations may be made for qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

Participant Essential Eligibility Requirements:**Participation and Expedition Behavior:**

- Work effectively as a member of a team despite potentially stressful and difficult conditions. This may require problem solving on an interpersonal or group level as well as a willingness to accept differences.
- Contribute to a safe learning environment, no harassment of others for any reason.
- Willingness and ability to complete all aspects of the program including conservation projects, education, training, and national service. Members must commit to participating in all crew/team activities, including service days in local communities where applicable.
- Effectively communicate ideas and concerns as they arise directly to supervisors, colleagues, and organization staff.
- Appropriately represent AmeriCorps, Arizona Conservation Corps, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at all times.

Safety and Judgment:

- Potential environmental/human risk involved with this work plan activity include walking and hiking on uneven terrain along the US/Mexico international border in extreme weather conditions and where poisonous/venomous/stinging animals and sharp vegetation (ex. cactus, mesquite, etc.) are common.
- Effectively communicate danger to others in the form of either a warning of danger others may be encountering or a notification of personal distress, injury or need for assistance. Must be able to do so at a distance of up to 50 meters and in conditions with limited visibility or loud background noise such as darkness or high winds.
- Effectively perceive, understand, and follow direction by others so that you will be able to successfully execute techniques to manage hazards.
- Stay alert and focused for several hours at a time while traveling and working in varied weather conditions.
- Respond appropriately to stress or crisis.
- If taking prescriptions medications, participants must be able to maintain proper dosage by self-medicating without assistance from others.

Environmental Ethics:

- Learn and practice 'Leave no Trace' techniques.

Substance Free:

- In accordance with a drug free workplace, alcohol and drugs are prohibited while participating in AmeriCorps and program activities and while on organization property.

To Apply: Please submit a resume and cover letter along with the online application at <https://azcorps.org/ip-positions>. If you have questions, contact AZCC's Individual Placement Coordinator Preston Sands at psands@conservationlegacy.org.

For more information on the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, please visit their website at <https://www.fws.gov/>. Information on the San Bernardino NWR can be found at <https://www.fws.gov/refuge/san-bernardino>

For more information about Arizona Conservation Corps, please visit <https://azcorps.org/>. Arizona Conservation Corps is a program of Conservation Legacy.

