

Kenai Watershed Forum Internship Summer 2010

Application Deadline: March 1, 2010

Location: Soldotna, Alaska on the Kenai Peninsula

Description of Organization: The Kenai Watershed Forum is a local 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to maintaining the health of the watersheds on the Kenai Peninsula in southcentral Alaska. Based 160 miles south of Anchorage in Soldotna, efforts are focused on the entire peninsula using education & outreach, restoration, and research programs. We are a small organization with a staff of ten, but you wouldn't know it to look at the scale of projects and scope of work we take on.

Intern Assignments / Description of Duties: We are looking for two field-oriented interns to collect water quality samples from the Kenai River. The intern will learn how to conduct physical and chemical water quality monitoring.

The interns will also assist in the restoration of stream areas associated with invasive plants, specifically reed canary grass. This project involves hard labor like lifting/carrying sand bags, shoveling mulch, and weed whacking.

Additional projects include surveying culverts for fish passage, locating new salmon streams, collecting temperature data on a variety of streams, and measuring water flow at gauging stations. We have nine large-scale culvert restoration projects taking place this year, and interns may assist with surveying, construction, and revegetation efforts.

Positions are expected to consist of approximately 90% fieldwork and 10% data entry/summary reports.

Qualifications: College student (freshman through junior year) in good academic standing, enrolled in a hydrology, biology, civil or environmental engineering or related major program. Preference will be given to those who demonstrate a desire to pursue an environmental career.

Relevant course work (not required) would include fluid mechanics, open channel hydrology, geology and/or geomorphology, forest hydrology, botany and fisheries.

Other Considerations: Applicants will conduct all fieldwork with a partner and must have a healthy respect for working in bear country. A significant amount of the work will be conducted by walking and bushwhacking up small volume streams with abundant wildlife. Applicants must be in reasonable physical condition and have some degree of tolerance for these conditions. Traveling by boat, 4WD truck, and/or 4 wheeler will be typical.

Duration: Earliest starting date is April 1 and latest starting date is June 5th. We would like the intern to stay on through August or later if possible.

Financial Support: Housing is provided (Intern will be staying with a host family in the area). Transportation to Alaska will be reimbursed. Transportation while in AK will be supplied (Intern must have valid drivers license and be able to drive stick shift). Per Diem (\$80 per day).

How to Apply: Please email a ONE PAGE letter of interest/cover letter and your ONE PAGE resume to rhonda@kenaiwatershed.org. You can address the letter to Rhonda Orth, Accounting Manager. Please feel free to contact Rhonda if you have any questions regarding the application process or the internship.