NatureServe CPEM/Vista Intern/Volunteer Descriptions

These positions should be considered unpaid unless specifically noted when advertised. Volunteer positions for those graduating before completion of an internship are described after the internship section.

Internships

Title: Conservation planning and decision support internship

State: Colorado or Virginia (other locations can be discussed including applicant's home university)

City: Boulder, Arlington

Subject Of Internship: Biodiversity conservation and GIS

Minimum Education Level: Current masters or doctoral program, experienced and advanced undergraduate can be considered

Possibility Of Extension Of Employment: Possible depending on need and funding availability

Internships are generally unpaid but some reimbursement of expenses may be available depending on the specific internship opportunities

Internship Description: **NatureServe offers internship positions in our Department of Conservation Planning to learn and apply advanced spatial decision support tools and models supporting biodiversity conservation.**

The intern will be an important member of NatureServe's Conservation Planning team. The department (http://www.natureserve.org/conservation-tools/expert-services/conservation-planning-services) conducts a broad variety of work including conservation assessments, prioritizations, and planning; development of methods, frameworks, and guidance; and advising and training for a very diverse set of clients including government agencies at the national, state/provincial, and local levels; conservation NGOs, and industry throughout the Americas (and occasionally beyond). Much of our work is focused on development and application of NatureServe Vista (natureserve.org/vista), a free extension to Esri's ArcGIS platform. Vista helps users perform a wide variety of conservation assessment and planning functions.

The intern will work closely with and be mentored by highly experienced professionals, including Department Director, Dr. Patrick Crist. We view this internship as an opportunity to help increase the professional experience and knowledge of the intern while benefitting from the contemporary knowledge and enthusiasm of the intern.

Responsibilities: This is an open internship offering where specific responsibilities will be established based on current projects and needs. In general, the intern may expect to do the following:

- Learn the NatureServe Vista decision support system and help identify needs and contribute solutions for improved documentation, usability, and performance

- Apply the Vista tool to a conservation assessment/planning project and develop a case study of the application for the Vista website. This may be a project that the intern brings or a pro-bono project for a poorly resourced organization or area of high interest for NatureServe such as marine conservation.
- Utilize a previous Vista project to develop a tutorial for demonstrations and user download that illustrates the breadth of Vista functions applicable to a particular sector of interest to the intern
- Investigate new tools and approaches to contribute to the knowledge of additional tools and models for interoperation with Vista in a conservation toolkit.
- Contribute to a project in addition to Vista through literature review, concepts, methods, and ideas, graphic presentation material, and report content.

Qualifications: A current masters or doctoral student in a relevant field (e.g., conservation biology/planning, natural resources management, ecology, regional planning/landscape architecture) although an advanced undergraduate with appropriate experience can be considered. Must have an existing background in Environmental Studies, Conservation Biology, or Natural Resources and good GIS skills including raster analysis using Esri ArcGIS. We especially seek interns with any of the following: good knowledge of climate change adaptation, marine conservation planning, wildlife connectivity modeling, ecosystem services valuation, socioeconomic aspects of conservation, or experience with conservation optimization tools such as Marxan or Zonation.

Duration Of Internship: minimum of 8 weeks full time or equivalent part time

Submission Deadline: applications can be considered any time. For summer internships applications are encouraged by March 1 with selection occurring by mid April; for fall internships applications are encouraged by August 1; for spring internships, applications are encouraged by Dec 1. Note that we typically only host two interns at any one time and some internships extend over two semesters.

Full Time Internship: Full or part time can be negotiated to fit qualified applicant's availability

To apply

Please send a CV to patrick_crist@natureserve.org with brief cover explaining the interest in this internship and specific skills you seek to apply, develop, and specific type of activities of interest.

Volunteers (anyone graduated prior to completing an internship)

Title: Conservation planning support

State: Colorado or Virginia (other locations per below can be discussed)

City: Boulder, Arlington (possibly Boston, Raleigh-Durham)

Subject: Biodiversity conservation and GIS

Minimum Education Level: depends on tasks, typically minimum undergraduate degree

Possibility Of Extension Of Employment: Possible depending on need, funding availability, and qualifications of volunteer

Description: **NatureServe seeks volunteers for our Department of Conservation Planning and Ecosystem Management (CPEM) to assist with a variety of needs in data management, graphics, research and literature review, case study development, and software testing and documentation. Those with advanced skills may contribute to conservation planning projects.**

The volunteer will have the opportunity to learn skills and gain experience as an important member of NatureServe's Conservation Planning team. The Conservation Planning Department (http://www.natureserve.org/conservation-tools/expert-services/conservation-planning-services) conducts a broad variety of work including conservation assessments, prioritizations, and planning; development of methods, frameworks, and guidance; and advising and training for a very diverse set of clients including government agencies at the national, state/provincial, and local levels; conservation NGOs, and industry throughout the Americas (and occasionally beyond). Much of our work is focused on development and application of NatureServe Vista (natureserve.org/vista), a free extension to Esri's ArcGIS platform. Vista helps users perform a wide variety of conservation assessment and planning functions.

Responsibilities: This is an open call for volunteers where specific responsibilities will be established based on current projects, needs, and the skills of the volunteer. In general, the volunteer may expect to do the following:

- Assist with organizing and archiving geospatial data.
- Create compelling case studies, graphics, and other materials for the CPEM and Vista websites.
- Conduct research and literature review for planning projects and assist development of the Department's literature library using citation software.
- Learn the NatureServe Vista decision support system and help identify needs and contribute solutions for improved documentation, usability, and performance
- Apply the Vista tool to a conservation assessment/planning project and develop a case study of the application for the Vista website
- Utilize a previous Vista project to develop a tutorial for demonstrations and user download that illustrates the breadth of Vista functions applicable to a particular sector of interest to the intern
- Contribute to a project (potential pro-bono project) in addition to Vista through literature review, concepts, methods, and ideas, graphic presentation material, and report content.

Qualifications: Depending on needs one or more of the following skills will be required: knowledge in a relevant field (e.g., conservation, natural resources, ecology). GIS skills using Esri ArcGIS and basic understanding of data management, digital map graphics skills, working knowledge of PowerPoint. Recent graduates looking to gain professional experience are encouraged to apply.

Duration: minimum of 4 weeks full time or equivalent part time. Full or part time can be negotiated to fit volunteer's availability

Submission Deadline: applications can be considered any time