



Latino Heritage Internship Program

LATINO HERITAGE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Diversity Internship Program



NPS UNIT: DENVER SERVICE CENTER PLANNING DIVISION, NATURAL RESOURCES BRANCH	PD#: 9
<p>Position Title: Natural Resources Management and Planning Intern Position Type: LHIP Direct Hire Authority Resource Assistance (DHA-RA) Primary natural resource discipline: Resource Management Location: 12795 W Alameda Pkwy, Lakewood, CO 80228</p>	
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
<p>Position Description: Serving as a project specialist, the intern will acquire a working knowledge and understanding of the National Park Service organization and its role in protected areas management. The goal of this project is to successfully reach consensus among park staff and regional staff and make decisions on the two to three park planning projects assigned to the intern. The intern will have opportunities to facilitate and document conversations with park staff to develop strategies towards more effectively and strategically managing park resources. This work may involve travelling to individual park units for site visits, meetings, and workshops. Results from workshops are documented into a formal plan and workshop report. The work is fast paced and often involves competing deadlines and high standards for work products. Through this opportunity the intern will develop professional-level facilitation, writing, communication, critical thinking, and time management skills. The intern’s primary duties would be to support a variety of plans and initiatives targeted to resolve management challenges inherent to the NPS mission of protecting resources and providing for visitor enjoyment. Projects facilitated through the Denver Service Center include a diverse range of visitor and resource management activities - and are often conducted with participation from other federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, special interest groups, and the general public. Through facilitating workshops with park staff and stakeholders, lending expertise from their specific natural resource discipline, and helping parks articulate management actions through plans and reports, the intern will be contributing directly to helping parks meet the NPS mission.</p>	
<p>Qualifications:</p> <p>The intern must be currently enrolled in an undergraduate, graduate, or PhD degree program at an accredited institution of higher education during the summer internship. The intern should be seeking a degree, preferably an advanced degree, in natural resources, natural resources management, natural resources planning, resource management and policy, or similar fields. The ideal candidate is highly motivated, a good writer and communicator, and enjoys working in a highly collaborative team environment. The candidate should have an interest in pursuing a career with a federal land management agency focusing on management planning, policy, and resource management. Special consideration will be given to interns in their first year of a graduate degree program.</p>	
<p>This position is offered through the National Park Service's Latino Heritage Internship Program in partnership with Environment for the Americas.</p>	

COVID ACCOMMODATIONS

Yes

LEARNING GOALS

The intern will further develop and practice their skills in professional-level facilitation, writing, communication, critical thinking, and time management. The intern will have opportunities to participate in trainings as available (may include virtual facilitation, wilderness character, National Environmental Policy Act, and more). By serving as a project specialist on multi-disciplinary teams, the intern will work alongside experienced NPS subject matter experts and planners and learn from their expertise in addition to practice workshop planning and facilitation themselves.

MENTORING

The intern will be a member of a highly collaborative natural resource team within the DSC planning division. The team is composed of six project managers and specialists with a variety of backgrounds/expertise in natural resources. As a member of the team, the intern will work with and be supported and mentored by the team as they collectively and individually support resource management planning efforts within the agency. All new staff at DSC are assigned a formal mentor. The intern would work closely with their mentor, the branch supervisor, and the team on both formal and informal learning and professional development. The intern would be provided with opportunities for job shadowing, assistance in understanding federal hiring processes, and informed about available careers within the agency. Through this opportunity the intern will develop professional-level facilitation, writing, communication, critical thinking, and time management skills. Additionally, the intern will develop an understanding of planning, compliance, and resource management processes within federal land management agencies, and particularly the NPS. The DSC Planning Division plans to host a number of interns in summer 2021 and is committed to providing opportunities for the interns to connect. The DSC believes it is important for the interns to be part of a cohort to support their internship where interns can discuss experiences openly together.

PROJECT RESULTS

With support from the natural resource team, the intern will be assigned as the primary natural resource specialist on approximately 2-3 planning efforts during their time at DSC - along with opportunities to collaborate on a wide variety of other plans and agency initiatives. These plans may include resource stewardship strategies, visitor use management plans, wilderness studies plans, species reintroduction plans, and environmental compliance documents (Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements). The results of the intern's work, particularly on the primary projects to which she/he is assigned, would be presented to and reviewed by park, regional, and WASO staff within the agency, and ultimately to the public and stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP

The supervisor/mentor will develop a detailed workplan and Leadership Development and Mentoring Plan in collaboration with the selected intern. Leadership skills will be honed in through public speaking exercises including but not limited to facilitating park workshops, facilitating internal DSC-Planning Division meetings, and more. The mentor and intern will meet regularly throughout the course of the internship to discuss the intern's projects and any challenges they are facing and to brainstorm solutions to support the intern's leadership development.

DHA-RAI OUTCOMES

Working alongside seasoned NPS subject matter experts and planners to write plans, facilitate workshops, and support the success of plans. The DHA intern will be the lead Natural Resource specialist on two to three plans during the duration of their summer internship.

NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT

Physical Work Environment: This internship may take place virtually or in person, depending on the covid-19 office policy by the time of the internship commencement. If the internship occurs virtually, the intern may be located anywhere within the United States and would be working in Mountain Time. If the internship occurs in person, the intern would be required to report to the office in Lakewood, Colorado during working hours. Lakewood Colorado is a suburb on the western edge of the Denver metro area up against the foothills and mountains of the Front Range. Both Lakewood and Denver metro are directly adjacent to the foothills, open space, and associated recreation opportunities. Housing and shopping amenities are plentiful. Lakewood Colorado sits at 5,520 feet above sea level and has moderate summers with dry and sunny days. There is a grocery store and restaurants walking distance from the office in Lakewood. Nearby Latino communities include Westwood, Harvey Park, Valverde, West Highland, Mar Lee, Athmar Park, Montbello, Berkeley, and Sloan Lake.

Work Environment: The office building is four stories and houses around 300 NPS regional and national employees with a wide variety of expertise. The office is ADA compliant with elevators and automatic door opening systems. Each person works in a cubicle in an open floor plan and conference rooms are used regularly for team project meetings. In addition to working in an office setting, occasional work trips to parks may occur as well, involving site visits which take place outdoors in varying conditions. Our program in the past has hosted more than one intern during the summer and plans to host multiple interns this summer. The Denver Service Center Planning Division is committed to ensuring that there is a cohort of interns so that the interns can meet regularly both professionally and informally to develop strong friendships to support success of their internship.

VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

Applicant does not need a valid drivers license. As described in the housing section, it is possible to commute to the office by public transportation or by foot depending on where the intern decides to live for the summer.