Chicago Botanical Garden

The Chicago Botanical Garden (CBG) is a nonprofit organization based outside Chicago, IL that recruits students from all areas and backgrounds to work for the federal government. CBG promotes responsible citizenship, productive community involvement, and furthering the understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources of our nation’s public lands. Each year, approximately 100 biologists and graduates from universities across the country receive five-month paid internships to assist professional staff at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), or U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

As an intern of the program, called the Conservation and Land Management (CLM) Intern Program, you will assist your mentor in a wide variety of projects determined by the needs of your assigned agency and location. Most internships involve work in botany or wildlife-related fields that may include monitoring assessing threatened/endangered species and habitats. Interns have worked in biology-related fields, i.e., fire ecology, fisheries, livestock utilization, and native plant materials. A few have completed internships in archaeology, planning, and recreation. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data have been an important component of numerous projects.

To date, the program has successfully placed hundreds of interns in BLM, NPS and USFS Field Offices, providing them with a rich experience from which to launch their professional careers.

Internship Benefits

The CLM Internship Program enables interns to do the following:

- Receive a stipend of $12,000 for a 5-month internship, paid bimonthly
- Make connections in various governmental and nonprofit organizations
- Learn what it's like to work at a federal agency
- Explore your career goals and expand your resume
- Experience new landscapes, habitats, and species diversity in the western United States
- Apply your education to important conservation questions

Internships are primarily located in one of the thirteen western states, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Prior to starting their internships, all interns will attend a one-week training workshop where they will learn skills that will be used at their placement office.

For more information and how to apply, please visit www.clminternship.org/.