



Prescribed Fire Internship

Mississippi Valley Conservancy (the Conservancy) is a regional, non-profit land trust based in La Crosse, WI that has permanently conserved over 21,000 acres of blufflands, prairies, wetlands, and streams in southwestern Wisconsin. The Conservancy owns and manages 20 different properties totaling 3,500 acres and also works with private landowners and local communities on voluntary conservation projects and environmental education in nine counties along or near the Mississippi River.

Summary of Position: This is an unpaid internship that will focus on the preparation and execution of the spring or fall burn season. Prescribed fire is an important tool that is used to manage native prairie, forests, and oak savanna habitats on Conservancy-protected lands throughout southwest Wisconsin. Using fire to manage the ecological health of the natural communities throughout the Mississippi River Valley is rewarding hard work. Interns will gain skills and expertise in prescribed fire preparations including firebreak establishment and placement as well as the execution of prescribed burns and mop up. Conservancy interns may also work with a variety of state, federal and private partners in conducting prescribed burns. In addition to prescribed burning, interns may also be involved in invasive species control and other land management projects.

Duties include equipment maintenance and organization, firebreak preparation, general prescribed burn crew duties (ignitions, holding, and mop up), chainsaw operation, invasive species control, use of herbicides, and tree and brush removal. Sites and projects will be physically demanding and provide excellent hands-on experience in prescribed burning and general land management. Prescribed burn season is completely weather dependent so flexibility is a must. Chainsaw and prior prescribed burn experience preferred.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Prescribed burn experience and/or S-130, S-190 Basic Wildland Firefighting course
- Chainsaw and/or brushsaw experience
- Working outdoors in adverse conditions (heat/cold, biting insects, etc.)
- Sincere interest in preserving southwest Wisconsin's ecosystems
- Strong work ethic & positive attitude
- Physically fit & able to work long days on steep, rugged terrain
- Plant and tree identification
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team
- Possess a valid driver's license and working vehicle
- A flexible schedule

Availability:

Prescribed Fire Interns will work primarily with Land Manager Levi Plath and the timeframe for spring is March – May and for fall is Sept – December and may be extended for the right candidate and depending upon land management priorities and weather conditions. Interns must be available for at least one full day during the week and must be flexible. The successful candidate will work approximately 8-30 hours/week dependent on weather conditions and project priorities. **Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.**

How to Apply:

Please **email** Levi Plath, Land Manager at contact below.

- A cover letter outlining your qualifications and why you want this position
- Resume

For more information contact Levi Plath at levi@mississippivalleyconservancy.org or 608-784-3606 ext. 5