



James E. Dutton Conservation Internship

Mississippi Valley Conservancy (MVC) is a regional, non-profit land trust based in La Crosse that has permanently conserved more than 18,000 acres of blufflands, prairies, wetlands, and streams in southwestern Wisconsin since its founding in 1997. MVC works with private landowners and local communities on voluntary conservation projects in nine counties along or near the Mississippi River: Buffalo, Trempealeau, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Vernon, Crawford, Richland and Grant Counties.

Summary of Position: Conservation Interns will assist with habitat management and restoration of native prairie, forest, oak savanna, and wetland habitat on MVC-protected lands throughout southwest Wisconsin. Managing the ecological health of the natural communities throughout the Mississippi River Valley is rewarding hard work. Interns may gain skills and expertise in all aspects of wildlife habitat management, including species identification, GIS mapping, timber stand improvement, prairie planting, wetland restoration, oak savanna and prairie restoration, invasive species control, trail maintenance, and prescribed burning. In addition to the boots-on-the-ground land management and restoration experience, interns may assist with writing grants, management plans, burn plans, species monitoring and inventory, project proposals, as well as public speaking, leading public hikes, outreach events, volunteer work days, and helping with environmental education. MVC interns work with a variety of state, federal and private partners.

Duties may include equipment maintenance, invasive species control, use of herbicides, tree and brush removal, prairie restoration, seed collection, boundary posting, supervising school and volunteer groups, coordinating work days and events, writing articles, and more. Sites and projects will be physically demanding and provide excellent hands-on experience in many facets of land management. Chainsaw and plant identification experience preferred.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Working outdoors under adverse conditions (extreme heat, 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 & experience with ArcGIS preferred
- 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
- Ability to use chainsaw and other power equipment preferred

Availability:

Four Conservation Interns will be hired to work together as a crew for the summer (June 1st – September 1st), based in La Crosse, WI. Interns will work approximately 30 hours/week dependent on weather conditions and land management priorities. Pay is \$9.25/hour.

How to Apply:

Please **email** Levi Plath, Land Manager no later than **May 5th, 2017**:

- A Resume and cover letter outlining your qualifications and why you want this position
- A list of 3 references
- Hiring & interviews will not occur prior to May 8th.

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