

Non-Point Source Pollution Intern 2016

This position will be located within the Watershed and Aquifer Protection Unit, within the Ecosystems Protection Program. The person selected will perform a variety of duties that support regulation under the Clean Water Act and the Agency's mission to protect public health and the environment.

The Watershed Team within the Watershed and Aquifer Protection Unit performs a variety of functions that are designed to protect water quality on a watershed basis. The non-point source pollution program works closely with states and tribes to assist their efforts in implementing water quality protection efforts. The person selected for this position may be asked to provide support for the following:

Healthy Watersheds – Many of the water quality programs are designed to improve water that has been degraded by point source and non-point sources of pollution. The Healthy Watersheds program is designed to prevent waters from becoming degraded. The intern may be asked to work with our national program to conduct a state specific analysis of watersheds, and then 'ground truth' the list, in coordination with the state environmental department, to identify the watersheds which may be candidates to protect. Once a list is identified, the team, including the intern, will identify a candidate watershed for focused protection. This project will include data review and analysis. The intern will work with EPA HQ programs and contacts within the state environmental departments.

Non-point Source Monitoring Workshop – Provide logistical support for the Watershed Coordinator in preparing for a workshop scheduled for end of August. The intern support the Coordinator by contacting speakers, preparing conference materials, coordinating meetings with the contractor, etc. This project will provide exposure to the current research and projects that touch on NPS pollution, Harmful Algal Blooms, Healthy Soils Initiative, etc. The intern will work primarily with the Watershed Coordinator for Region 8.

Tribal Water Quality – Tribes collect water quality data that is used to support development of water quality standards and to identify waters that could benefit from projects to improve water quality. The person selected may be asked to review data, under the supervision of the water quality lead, to determine gaps, issues, and develop a brief report summarizing the findings. This project will provide experience in data review and assessments, and summarizing in written reports, oral reports. The intern will work with EPA regional staff and tribal water quality staff.

Discovery Farms – Research farms called Discovery Farms are located within many states. The intern will review the function of the Discovery Farm, as well as other research farms in our region, and develop a white paper to support state needs. The project will provide experience in current agricultural practices that support and protect water quality. The intern will work with EPA water quality staff as well as state and ag extension.

Contacts:

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