

Wetlands Volunteer/Climate Change Intern position

Wetlands Activities

This project will help Region 8 more effectively implement its WPDG program and the Enhancing State and Tribal Program Initiative. The intern will work with Regional Wetlands Program staff to update the Wetlands Grant Database (WGD) which houses grant data for all WPDGs nationwide.

Details: The WGD is required by EPA HQ to track grant-funded activities. It allows prospective grantees to learn from what past grantees have accomplished and the public to read about projects that are being conducted in their vicinity. While the WGD contains many records from Region 8, there are significant gaps that need to be addressed. Addressing these gaps will help the Region better understand the capacity of state and tribal wetland programs, promote grant products, communicate WPDG program successes, and leverage opportunities to collaborate on a wide range of issues. It is anticipated that updating the WGD will comprise 25 percent of the overall project.

The intern will also analyze information contained in the updated database (through automated queries and document review) to summarize key information on projects funded by Region 8 WPDGs. This research may include (but is not limited to) information on:

- training materials and tools to help local decision-makers integrate wetlands protection into watershed planning;
- protocols and assessment criteria that can be used to identify wetland restoration and protection priorities;
- monitoring protocols and assessment criteria that can be used to report the ambient condition of wetland resources; and/or
- methods or strategies to develop wetland water quality standards.

If time allows, the intern will develop the first comprehensive report on WPDGs in Region 8. This report will detail the current state of the non-regulatory wetland programs in Region 8 and will identify gaps in wetland program capacity at the local, state, and tribal levels. The intern will work with Region 8 Wetland Program staff to explore how the information gathered could be used to investigate ways of bridging those gaps through a change in Regional funding priorities or suggestions for changes to the implementation of the Region 8 Enhancing State and Tribal Programs plan. Depending on availability and interest, the intern will have the opportunity to perform similar analyses on databases that the EPA uses to track information related to the Clean Water Act regulatory programs.

Climate Change Activities

This project supports the agency's priority to address climate change as well as Region 8's Climate Adaptation Implementation Plan. The intern will develop an inventory and contact list of existing organizations focused on climate change within Region 8, particularly in relation to implications for aquatic resources. This will be accomplished through internet-based research and direct communication.

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