



PAID Summer Internships in Environmental Science and Policy!!

Field Research on Invasive Species
Ecology and Management



In collaboration with William & Mary (W&M), the GMU Department of Environmental Science and Policy is announcing an opportunity for **paid internships** for a project that will occur over the spring and summer of 2024. Successful applicants will engage in a research project involving **field trials on ecological restoration sites** (wetlands and streams) using **different management techniques to control invasive plant species**. The project is a large-scale ecological experiment that will be conducted on **two separate field sites located in the Northern Virginia region**. GMU student awardees will engage with faculty, staff, and student researchers from W&M in a collaborative effort to **establish and maintain experimental plots over the course of the 2024 growing season**. Students working on this project will develop skills in identifying plants and measuring/quantifying vegetation abundance, as well as some GIS/GPS mapping techniques and other environmental data collection strategies. In addition, students will be engaged in a cutting-edge research project with direct application to management decisions in ecosystem restoration and conservation biology. Internship responsibilities and logistics are summarized below.

GMU Project Scientist/student contact: Dr. Cindy Smith (csmitc@gmu.edu)

W&M Principal Investigator: Dr. Doug DeBerry (dadeberry@wm.edu)

W&M Project Leads:

Reston Stream Mitigation Site: Robert Sullivan (rasullivan@wm.edu)

Nokesville Wetland Mitigation Site: Matt Whalen (mwhalen@wm.edu)

Internship Responsibilities

- Project orientation and training (mid-April timeframe)
- Plot maintenance over spring and summer months (general surveillance, weeding, etc.)
- Field support for data collection during peak growing season (August 2024)
- Field experiment deconstruction and removal (September 2024)

Internship Requirements

- Students must have their own living accommodations in the Northern Virginia area over the spring and summer of 2024
- Students must have their own transportation to and from field sites (see Pay/Reimbursement below)
- Students must be willing and able to engage in **physically demanding work under challenging field conditions** (heat, insects, etc.). Students are expected to have their **own personal protection equipment** (boots, long pants, adequate hydration, etc.). W&M will provide any field tools and other supplies needed (e.g., vegetation maintenance tools, vegetation plot markers, bug repellent, etc.).

Pay/Reimbursement

- The internship pays \$15/hr.
- Students will be expected to commit to approximately 10-15 hrs/week
- Students will be reimbursed for personal mileage driven to and from field sites at a rate of \$0.56/mile.

How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for this research internship, **submit a Statement of Interest (350 word maximum)** to Dr. Cindy Smith at csmitc@gmu.edu outlining your interest in any or all of the following research subjects: ecological restoration; wetland and/or stream riparian zone ecology; invasive species ecology and management; ecosystem assessment. Please also include any relevant experience you have had in related types of fieldwork and/or working in outdoor settings. Include the phrase **"Invasion Ecology Internship Application – [your name]"** in the subject line of the email with your submission.