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 (csmittc@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 repellant, 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 csmittc@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.