

# Middle Fork Willamette Junior Fisheries Biologist Internship

## 2017 Field Season



The Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council (MFWWC) and the Willamette National Forest (WNF) have a joint interest in providing internship opportunities to local youth to gain hands-on experience working as fish biologists. The Middle Fork Willamette Junior Fisheries Biologist Intern Program is an introductory science program that supports interest in the fields of biology, conservation, and lands management. Interns train with WNF fisheries biologist mentors for an eight week period during the summer and work 30-40 hours per week on fisheries and land management projects. Interns receive a \$3,000 stipend/scholarship in addition to professional field training and mentorship.

## **Eligibility**

Internships are available to high school students in their Junior or Senior years and must have a GPA of 3.0 or above. Students must have an interest in learning about, or pursuing a degree in natural resources after high school. Students must complete the following items:

- Application
- Two letters of recommendation (one academic, one character)
- Complete two essays: 1) describing their interest in pursuing a career in natural resources , and 2) involvement in the local community, school extracurricular activities, and volunteer work
- School transcripts

## **Selection Criteria**

Preference will be given to those students who live in the rural communities of the Middle Fork Willamette Watershed (Oakridge, Lowell, Dexter, Pleasant Hill, Fall Creek, and surrounding areas); however students from Springfield are also encouraged to apply. Students will be evaluated based on their essays and their demonstration of community/school involvement. Applications are due on May 15, 2007, interviews will be conducted the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>, and selections will be made by June 1st.

## **Internship requirements**

Students are expected to be able to meet the physical demands of field work and be able to carry a 25 pound pack over steep and uneven terrain, wade through swift streams; stand and hike for long periods of time; work outdoors for long periods of time in inclement weather, and learn proper safety protocol around electricity and water. Students are expected to work eight weeks beginning June 26<sup>th</sup> and ending August 18th. The training schedule will typically consist of alternating four 10-hour days, Monday-Thursday followed by three 10 hour days Tuesday-Thursday (alternating 40 and 30 hour weeks). Training will occur primarily on the Middle Fork Ranger District of the WNF located in Westfir, Oregon but may also occur on other districts of the Willamette National Forest. Interns are responsible for obtaining transportation to the Middle Fork Ranger District office in Westfir.

Students will complete a mid-internship report that includes their progress, photos, and evaluation of the internship program. Students will complete a final report and assessment of the internship at the completion of the program.

Students are expected to provide a brief presentation of their internship experiences at the August watershed council meeting. Students are expected to provide a presentation highlighting the work that was completed (including photos) and describing how the program influenced their understanding of careers in natural resources.

Alumni of the program are encouraged to share their experiences at their local schools and help recruit students that might be interested in becoming interns.

Interns are expected to arrive to work on time each day and be prepared to perform the necessary duties of their assigned work in a professional and safe manner. Failure to complete the eight week program or perform duties safely and in compliance with work leader approval may result in termination from the program. Performance and conduct issues will be assessed and addressed by all supervisory sponsors of the program, including MFWWC and WNF.

**Responsibilities**

The WNF will bring students on as trainees. The WNF will be responsible for all day to day activities, safety, training, and mentorship. The MFWWC will be responsible for distribution of scholarship checks.

Funding for the Middle Fork Willamette Junior Fisheries Intern Program is established through agreements between the MFWWC and Forest Service. Forest Service will provide annual funding to support Intern stipends/scholarships payments as well as administrative fees incurred by MFWWC personnel to participate in the program.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
MFWWC Representative

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Trainee

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Forest Service Representative

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Parent (in case of minor)