The Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge in cooperation with the nonprofit Great Basin Society Malheur Field Station is pleased to offer one or two paid undergraduate internships based at the refuge in southeastern Oregon to run approximately June 10-August 10, 2017 depending on the intern’s schedule and the needs of the project.

Interns are assigned to bird monitoring projects on the refuge, typically point counts, so familiarity with bird identification applicable to the northern Great Basin is essential. Applicants with previous experience in the west and with previous experience conducting bird surveys will have an advantage in the selection process. In addition, some familiarity with other aspects of biology, e.g. botany, butterflies and aquatic biology, is helpful.

Working Conditions

Positions include $1000 plus free housing. Depending on available funds the stipend may be raised. Housing is at the Malheur Field Station or refuge facilities 35 miles south of Burns, Harney County, Oregon and adjacent to Steens Mountain. Cooking facilities, bathrooms, showers and laundry facilities are available on site or nearby. Wifi is available at SOME housing sites, but can be slow or temporarily down depending on local conditions. Verizon service works well in spots; ATT and Sprint are generally poor or absent.

The refuge consists of a marsh and lake complex embedded in sage steppe at 4,000 feet elevation. Climate is hot and dry in summer, with cold mornings or thunderstorms possible at any time. Work involves potential contact with rattlesnakes, livestock, noxious wildlife or plants, very wet and very dry conditions. Mosquitoes are abundant and vigorous.

Application Process

Internships are open to any college undergraduate or someone who graduates (bachelor’s degree) in 2017. Send a resume and cover letter describing your experience and background, along with any special skills such as bird banding, GIS, habitat restoration, etc. to Alan Contreras, 3895 Kevington Ave, Eugene OR 97405. Material may be emailed to acontrer56@gmail.com. Include information describing how your skills and background would help in a bird monitoring context in the west. Include contact information for faculty overseeing your work, if applicable.

Applications will be reviewed starting January 15, 2017. The selection committee plans to notify selected interns by mid-February.

Further information about Malheur NWR: http://www.fws.gov/malheur/
Further information about the Malheur Field Station: http://www.malheurfieldstation.com/

Malheur internships are funded entirely by private donations