



## **PRAIRIE CONSERVATION & RESTORATION INTERN JOB DESCRIPTION**

**CLASSIFICATION:** Internship

**REPORTS TO:** Conservation & Restoration Manager

**WORK HOURS:** Work hours are seasonally variable and weather dependent, typically 3-5 days/12-20 hours per week from 8:00am – 12:00pm. Depending on projects and focus, some off-site hours may be available for proposal development and field trips to visit local partner prairies.

**POSITION SUMMARY:** The prairie Conservation & Restoration intern is an individual dedicated to conserving and restoring Blackland Prairie and works in all aspects of these efforts. Intern(s) will receive training specific to all assigned tasks.

### **DUTIES AND EXPECTATIONS:**

Skills learned include species identification, fundamentals of prairie ecology and natural history, public interpretation, program development and practical approaches to prairie restoration. Individual intern experience, skills and performance will determine the range of activities added to his/her responsibilities over time. Advanced duties will not be assigned until the intern has demonstrated understanding, proficiency and reliability in basic and intermediate tasks.

**DUTIES AND EXPECTATIONS include but are not limited to:** Ensuring safety protocols are followed and emergency procedures are in place to handle accidents or other risks to visitor safety. Daily tasks will often include the use of hand tools.

- Cutting and clearing: intern(s) will assist with cutting cedars and saplings to remove them from restoration areas, including the operation of chainsaws with associated PPE. Intern(s) will be stacking cut brush and woody material to build brush piles in designated burn areas, which requires heavy lifting/dragging, up to 50 lbs unassisted.
- Identification and removal of invasive species: In season volunteers will be digging, pulling and may at times use herbicide to remove invasive species from the prairie. Proper identification and removal techniques will be an integral part of intern training. Firebreak Preparation: seasonal need. Intern(s) will use weed wackers, brush cutters, self-propelled mower, blowers, loppers, and rakes to create needed firebreaks around designated burn areas.
- Seed collection and dispersal (seasonal): interns will learn to recognize many valuable native species in the prairie along with when/how to collect seed and how best to spread seed to to expand the populations of these species.
- Public Interpretation: Interested and qualified interns will be encouraged to learn fundamentals of public interpretation for different ages including guiding prairie tours, identifying and designing signage as needed, and developing potential public education projects centered around prairie ecology.

### **Minimum Qualifications**

**Physical Effort:** Includes, but is not limited to: standing, sitting, walking, lifting, carrying, reaching, handling, kneeling, crouching, climbing, and bending. Occasionally requires lifting and carrying materials weighing up to 50 lbs. Frequently requires handling of materials up to 20 lbs. Walking and/or standing for

the entire shift on uneven surfaces. Work is primarily performed outdoors; there will be exposure to weather, insects, scratches and animal wastes.

Must complete satisfactory background check prior to beginning volunteer work.

### **SKILLS**

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills; ability to interact effectively with the public, staff, and volunteers in all departments.
- Excellent organizational, detail, planning and time management skills.
- Self-motivated, able to work independently with limited supervision and as a member of a team.
- Ability to multitask, manage multiple projects simultaneously and re-prioritize as needed.
- Strong verbal and written communication skills.
- Proactive approach in resolving problems with a positive outlook and can-do attitude.
- A working knowledge of Microsoft Office programs.

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- A passion for Blackland Prairie Raptor Center's mission and a keen interest in conservation and restoration of the Blackland prairie ecosystem.
- Previous experience/degree (or degree in progress) in natural sciences, wildlife management, ecology, botany, horticulture, agriculture or related field is preferred.
- Must be able to lift and carry up to 50 pounds safely and perform physically demanding tasks outdoors in all types of weather.
- Possess good oral and written communication skills and be able to learn quickly and perform various tasks in a fast-paced work environment; work quickly and efficiently while following directions and procedure exactly.
- Be able to work independently and as a team member in collaboration with volunteers, other interns and staff.
- Be 18 years of age or older. Must be legally entitled to work in the USA.

If interested in this position, please email your resume to [cody.hoya@bpraptorcenter.org](mailto:cody.hoya@bpraptorcenter.org).