

ROCKEFELLER WILDLIFE REFUGE MONITORING OF PUBLIC RECREATIONAL USAGE AND ASSOCIATED SUCCESS-INTERNSHIP

Location: Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Grand Chenier, Louisiana

Position Reference Number: *(please list this number in the job description in your application):* 513-00004

Background: Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge (RWR) is a 71,000-acre refuge, which borders 26.5 miles of the Gulf of Mexico and extends inland toward the Grand Chenier ridge. Rockefeller has been actively managed by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) for more than 100 years with the primary goal to provide a refuge and preserve for all wildlife and fisheries species. Today, the refuge uses management activities to promote appropriate habitat and conditions for waterfowl species, establish/maintain historic flora and fauna of RWR, and maintain the hydrology of the Mermentau River Basin. These management activities often benefit other marsh inhabitants including shorebirds, wading birds, alligators, furbearers, and estuarine organisms (i.e., fish, shrimp, and crabs).

Project Scope: The student intern will work full time conducting creel surveys at three separate locations where four fishing piers were constructed and funded by the Louisiana Trustee Implementation Group (LA TIG) grant. Two of the three locations consisting of three fishing piers are only accessible by boat; one fishing pier is accessible by vehicle. The student intern will rotate locations and times each day throughout the week based off a pre-set schedule. The survey will entail questioning individuals based on what recreational activities they are taking part in as well as their success at that specific location. He or she will need to know how to identify various saltwater species of fish as well as shrimp and crab. The ideal candidate for this internship will possess high energy, be eager to learn, have good people skills, and be a strong speaker.

In addition, the student intern will learn how to operate several key instruments used in the field of wildlife management and will need to be familiar with data entry. He or she must be willing to work occasional long/odd hours in extreme heat and humidity and be able to tolerate mosquitoes and other biting insects while working in the field. They must be willing to learn to identify different types of wildlife and fisheries species. They must be capable of taking notes and recording data, and be proficient in Microsoft excel and Microsoft Word. Boaters education is preferred but not required. The student intern may be required to compose a research paper at the end of the summer.

Timing: May 2022 – August 2022 (Starting/Ending Date TBD upon successful applicant)

Housing: Housing Provided at the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, Grand Chenier, Louisiana

Compensation: College credit will be contingent upon approval of the applicant's university. Financial compensation will be a rate of \$12/hr.

Application deadline: April 20, 2022