

GRASSLAND CONSERVATION FELLOWSHIP



The Nature Conservancy in North Dakota is looking for a highly motivated and enthusiastic college graduate with experience in natural resources, conservation biology, or related field for a 18-month paid Fellowship focusing on ecology and conservation of grasslands.

Take that next step towards your conservation career. Over the course of two field seasons and one winter, the Fellowship will provide a wealth of real world experience to supplement your college education. You will not only walk away with a greater understanding of what a career in conservation entails, you will have opportunities to build the experience, skills, and network needed to pursue your professional goals and truly make a difference.

Gain experience working both independently and collaboratively on projects . . .

- Prescribed burning
- Ecological Research and Monitoring
- Invasive species management
- Grassland restoration
- Bison and Grazing management
- Outreach

Build your resume as you develop skills. . .

- Decision- making
- Leadership
- Building partnerships
- Communicating
- Budgeting and Project Management
- Planning, setting, and implementing goals
- Problem-solving

The Fellowship will provide opportunities to spend time with a variety of conservation professionals while attending conferences, meetings, and trainings aimed at expanding your professional network and expertise in grassland conservation.

Most of your time will be spent in central North Dakota at one of the three preserves managed out of Cross Ranch office- Cross Ranch Prairie Preserve, Davis Ranch and John E. Williams Preserve. Housing will be provided at the Cross Ranch Prairie Preserve near Washburn, ND. Each of the properties have their own unique features. Cross Ranch Prairie Preserve is home to two of the Conservancy's bison herds. John E. Williams Preserve contains large breeding populations of endangered Piping plovers. Davis Ranch is a 7,000 acre preserve located in the heart of the Prairie Pothole Region; also referred to as North America's "Duck Factory" because of its significant breeding habitat for waterfowl.

Application deadline: February 11, 2018

Fellowship Dates: April 16, 2018- October 25, 2019

To view a position description and to apply visit www.nature.org/careers. Search for position number 46080

If you have questions about the position please contact Eric Rosenquist, 701-794-8741, erosenquist@tnc.org.



Grassland Fellowship Curriculum

Specific experiences will vary by host program and will be tailored to the skills and interests of the Fellow. Upon completion of the program the Fellow will have gained experiences, training and mentoring making them a highly competitive candidate for full time employment in the conservation field. Although specific details and timing may vary based on available opportunities, the following is an example of the types of experience and trainings the Fellow will receive throughout the course of the Fellowship.

First field season:

- Prescribed fire implementation
- Obtain basic certifications: Chemical Applicators license, CRP/First Aid, annual fire refresher/fitness test
- Invasive species control and monitoring
- Ecological surveys- Belt transects at Davis Ranch.
- Attend at least one partner hosted workshop.
- Attend at least one TNC hosted workshop
- Participate in annual bison roundups
- Provide marketing content (blogs, facebook, other)
- Staff Enrichment: a week in Nebraska meeting TNC colleagues and attending presentations on a wide variety of subjects

Winter:

- Attend Supervisors training and put skills to use interviewing, hiring, and leading work crews
- Advance prescribed fire qualification by completing at least one fire training course
- Prescribed fire planning
- Attend one meeting with Chapter Board of Trustee or ND/SD Advisory Council
- Attend one event or meeting related to government relations: such as assist with “Camo Day at the Capitol” in SD or “Outdoors Day” in ND.
- Produce and present a presentation at, at least one, professional forum.
- Complete at least one GIS project.
- Manage monitoring data collection and entry: will include experience with ArcGIS, Collector, Excel, Access.
- Participate in development of annual work plans and development of associated budgets.
- Participate in chapter grassland team planning exercises.
- Develop detailed Range Management plan for TNC owned properties.

Second field season:

- Prescribed fire leadership role: will be based on experience, qualifications, and demonstrated abilities.
- Attend local grazing management school
- Attend at least one professional conference: such as TNC’s Stewardship and Science conference, The Wildlife Society annual conference, or Society for Range Management conference.
- Participate in annual bison roundups.
- Assist with one philanthropy/member event: such as Western South Dakota annual celebration in Rapid City and/or Green Tie affair in MN.
- Develop and lead at least one public outreach event.