



Ensuring a future for North America's Cranes

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## **Lila O. Wilson Biological Monitoring Internship**

**Position Type:** Seasonal Internship

**Date of Employment:** May 1<sup>st</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> 2019 (flexible)

**Website:** [cranetrust.org](http://cranetrust.org)

We are currently seeking 1 seasonal Biological Monitoring Intern to serve as part of our natural resources research team at the Crane Trust for the upcoming 2019 field season. The Biological Monitoring Intern will be working on a variety of projects described below, with a major focus on avian point counts, vegetation surveys, and small mammal trapping. A description of ongoing research at the Crane Trust that the position will participate in is described below. The position is generously supported by Johanna DeStefano, Professor Emeritus at The Ohio State University, and named after her mother Lila. O. Wilson, a curious and passionate high school biology teacher from Springfield, Oregon, who shared her love of the natural environment with so many.

### **Projects**

**Vegetation-** Helping record data and read long-term vegetation monitoring plots, including both upland and riparian habitats. Learning to use taxonomic keys to identify plants to species. Helping press plants and contributing to our herbarium.

**Avian-** Assisting with point count and transect songbird surveys as well as helping with shorebird/wading bird and prairie chicken research, including data entry on these projects.

**Small Mammal-** Sherman box trapping along long-term monitoring transects to collected species diversity and abundance data.

**Bison Behavior-** Helping collect and process bison biometric data for long-term genetic and health studies.

**Fish Seining:** Systematic surveys for populations of slough fish. Position will aid with fish capture, identification, data recording, and data entry.

**Butterfly Species of Concern Surveys:** Transect surveys for Regal Fritillary and Monarch butterflies.

**Ground Water Monitoring:** Assist in recording groundwater depth data utilizing digital transducers.

**Location:** Wood River, NE

**Stipend:** \$800/mo with housing provided.

### **Qualifications**

A college degree with a major or minor in the biological sciences, natural resources, botany, range science, ecology, wildlife biology, agriculture or a related field. If you do not have a degree or official minor in one of these fields, college credits equivalent to a minor (24 credits in biological sciences) will be acceptable. Field experience is a bonus, whether in class, for work, or for an internship. Please let us know about your love of working in the outdoors. Our tallgrass prairie system is extremely beautiful and diverse, but you will be exposed to many biting insects, hot humid weather conditions, and poisonous plants.

Knowing you enjoy working outside for extended periods of time, despite some basic lack of comfort, is a must. You must also be good at working in close quarters with other people. Housing includes private rooms with shared men's bathroom, women's bathroom, and kitchen. These will be the same people you will also be working long field hours with and collaborating with on research projects, both in the office and field. An ability to get along with others is a must. Must have the ability to hike moderate distances over uneven terrain and lift up to 50 lbs. Skill in Microsoft Office, Access, Excel, STATA, R, SPSS, ArcGIS, ArcPad, Garmin Basecamp, DNR Garmin, and other programs often used in Natural Resources Research is a great benefit, but not mandatory. Must also have proof of personal health insurance and a valid driver's license for the position.

### **Deadline**

Application Deadline is April 15<sup>th</sup>; however, if we have a great deal of applicants we may pull a final list as early as April 1<sup>st</sup> so make sure to apply as early as possible.

### **Application Instructions**

To apply send one document, preferably a PDF, containing your resume/CV, contact information, 3 references, and a cover letter no longer than 1 page detailing your interests in our research projects, your skillset, important experiences (educational, volunteer, or work highlights), and a little about your philosophy on conservation and work. I know this is a lot to fit into 1 page, but be concise and it should fit. Thank you for your interest in this position. Please email ([acaven@cranetrust.org](mailto:acaven@cranetrust.org)) or airmail applications to the below address and feel free to call with any questions. Please CC Wendy Bailey, Director of Finance & Human Resources, on email applications ([wbailey@cranetrust.org](mailto:wbailey@cranetrust.org)).

### **Contact Information**

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