



## *Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge 2011 Research Demonstration Internship*

**Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge** is an emulation of historic tallgrass prairie and savanna ecosystems as they existed 170 years ago. Located 20 miles east of Des Moines, Iowa, it is the first prairie reconstruction of its scale and scope, and thus is an important prototype. This project explores the potentials and limits of developing an ecosystem essentially "from scratch" on formerly farmed land. This work is critical in a time of global climate change, when such techniques may be essential for conservation of ecosystems and the species they protect. Established in 1990, as an 8,600 acre refuge, it now is home to hundreds of prairie, and savanna plant, invertebrate and bird species, as well as bison, elk, bobcat and other species dependent on large grasslands.

**Land Management and Research Demonstration Program (LMRD):** There are 7 active LMRD programs in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), each with a specific ecosystem focus. Neal Smith NWR is the home refuge of the Midwest Region's LMRD Program that serves eight states and approximately 50 FWS stations. The LMRD Program focuses on conservation of globally endangered tallgrass prairie and savanna ecosystems, and the species they support through targeted research and development of innovative solutions to ecological restoration challenges.

**Duties:** The LMRD Intern will participate in field research projects with a focus on botanical surveys, and will record and electronically enter field data. Additional experiences include assisting in development of a field-based training workshop, research and management fact sheets, and electronic outreach tools. The LMRD Intern will get exposure to a well-developed research program, to adaptive management and structured decision-making processes, and will assist in implementation of the new 5-year LMRD Plan.

**Internship Details:** Friends of the Prairie Learning center are sponsoring two LMRD summer internships. LMRD internships have a flexible start and end date, but inclusion of all or most of the month of August is preferred for one position. Duration is 9 to 12-weeks, with \$2,880 or \$3,840 stipends respectively. Housing is not provided, but is available for rent nearby. Non-students are also eligible to apply.



**Qualifications:** Applicants must be hard-working, independent, and good team players and eager to learn and work. Proficiency in prairie and/or savanna plant identification is highly desirable. The LMRD intern must be highly motivated and able to efficiently find and incorporate information into written documents. Good scientific and interpretive writing skills are needed to distill essential elements of scientific papers into posters and outreach products. *This position is geared toward a graduate level applicant, a precocious undergraduate or an experienced and dedicated non-student.*

**To Apply:** Submit: 1) a one-page cover letter describing why you would like to participate in this internship program and what you hope to gain from this experience, 2) a detailed resume noting education, experience, and skills, including 3 references and their phone numbers, 3) a letter of recommendation written by an educator or employer, and 4) Dates of availability. Send **LMRD Internships** application to: **Pauline Drobney, Restoration Scientist, Neal Smith NWR, PO Box 399, Prairie City, IA 50228.**

**Intern applications are due February 18, 2011.**

For additional information go to <http://www.tallgrass.org> or <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nealsmith/> or contact Pauline Drobney at (515) 994-3400 or [Pauline\\_Drobney@fws.gov](mailto:Pauline_Drobney@fws.gov).