



Paid Summer Internship (40 hours per week)

Job Title: Aquatic Ecology Field and Lab Internship

Compensation: \$8.75 per hour plus room and board (valued at \$2500)

Dates: June 21- August 13, 2021

Internship Description:

- This intern will be working with Dr. Rachel Malison on stream ecology projects in western Montana. Primarily, the intern will assist with a study examining the influence of beaver mimicry (beaver dam analogs, BDAs) on the structure and function of headwater stream and riparian food webs in western Montana. The intern will assist a MS student (co-advised by Dr. Malison) with field macroinvertebrate collections at least twice during the 2021 field season. Study sites are located outside of Missoula, MT on tributaries of the Blackfoot River and Lolo Creek. This will require the intern to drive to Missoula and then travel to, sample and camp with the MS student while conducting field collections. The majority of the internship will take place at FLBS, where the intern will pick and sort macroinvertebrate samples and be trained in macroinvertebrate identification and ecology by Dr. Malison. Other tasks may include assisting with the processing of images from Game Cameras deployed at BDA sites, entering data, etc. Duties may also include conducting respirometry experiments on benthic stonefly species (Plecoptera) depending on other ongoing laboratory projects.
- The internship will provide opportunities to gain valuable knowledge of stream ecology and the role of BDAs as a restoration technique for small streams. The intern will learn macroinvertebrate sampling techniques, including the collection of benthic surber samples, emergence trapping, and deploying and collecting from pan traps (for falling and terrestrial inputs). The intern will also learn how to sort samples and identify nymph and adult aquatic macroinvertebrates and some terrestrial insects. The position will allow the intern to gain necessary skills in the lab including data entry and management. Depending on on-going experiments the intern may also gain skills in conducting respirometry experiments. The intern will have the opportunity to experience other research efforts and meet other students, researchers and professionals.

Qualifications:

- Must be a continuing undergraduate student.
- Applicants should be mature, hardworking individuals with good organizational skills and attention to detail.

- Applicants should work well as part of a team, have a positive attitude, and a desire to learn.
- Applicants should be in good health and be capable of hiking in rough terrain and wading in streams, as well as be comfortable conducting fieldwork regardless of the weather.
- Applicants must be comfortable carrying bear spray and willing to follow bear safety protocol when in the field.
- Previous lab experience and experience identifying macroinvertebrates is desirable but not required.
- Must have a driver's license and be able to drive field vehicles

How to Apply (application deadline: Feb 28, 2021):

UM students: use Handshake; search for Flathead Lake Biological Station

Non-UM students: send a cover letter, resume, and contact information for two references to Monica Elser at monica.elser@flbs.umt.edu