Natural Resources and Environmental Law Student Internship 
at the Flathead Lake Biological Station

Background

- The Flathead Lake Biological Station (FLBS) is a University of Montana Center of Excellence that conducts ecological research with an emphasis on fresh water, particularly Flathead Lake and its watershed. Located on the east shore of Flathead Lake at Yellow Bay, our facilities are housed on 80 acres and include research laboratories, resident housing, dormitory rooms, cabins, dining hall, museum and motor pool (including multiple boats).

- Over its history, the Bio Station has led efforts to understand and conserve Flathead Lake’s clarity, cleanliness, and fish and wildlife. FLBS scientists regularly engage the management, legal and policy arenas, bringing scientific expertise to achieve sound management decisions and conservation outcomes. Past successes dependent upon Bio Station science and policy engagement include preventing large-scale coal mining the North Fork Flathead River watershed, promoting upgrades to wastewater treatment facilities, supporting a ban in Phosphorus containing detergents, and obtaining federally reserved water rights for the Middle and North Fork Flathead Rivers.

- Summer is a vibrant time at FLBS. Students and scientists from around the country and the world come here to learn firsthand about biology, freshwater ecology, Flathead Lake and the
Northern Rocky Mountains. Students, interns and visiting researchers live in cabins or a dormitory along the lakeshore, dining together and with FLBS faculty and scientists.

- Today, our eight-week summer field ecology classes enroll 50+ students, and our multidisciplinary internship program brings another 8-12 students to our campus. We regularly have visiting researchers collaborate with our renowned faculty and scientists.
- At the Bio Station, interns are introduced to the work of our permanent faculty and scientists, attend seminars, audit select class presentations, participate in field work and complete projects related to their legal education. Law interns will engage other interns with various backgrounds and interests and will have the opportunity to interact with students and researchers from other disciplines, other institutions and even other countries. To foster community and cross-disciplinary interaction, the entire group of interns takes several research field trips and assists at the Bio Station’s public events.

**Job Description**

- The law student intern will be working with FLBS researchers to tangibly link science with natural resources and environmental policy and law, working on case studies of on-the-ground natural resources and environmental policy issues in the Flathead Basin and the greater transboundary region. Potential current issues include:
  - Legal context, data needs and environmental impact assessment of mountain-top removal coal mining in the transboundary Elk/Kootenai River Basin
  - Indian Law with respect to traditional territory uses and federal consultation for environmental impacts in the transboundary Flathead and Elk/Kootenai River Basins
  - Superfund law, data and interpretation with respect to the Columbia Falls Aluminum Company Superfund site
  - The interface of protective land designations, jurisdictional mandates and environmental issues that cross land boundaries (e.g.; oil train transport, aquatic invasive species, threatened and endangered species)

- The internship will provide opportunities to apply law and policy to high priority environmental issues in the Flathead Basin and greater Crown of the Continent Ecosystem. The intern will gain experience in environmental data collection and research in this region and how these data inform policy and management, while having the opportunity to contribute legal expertise and capacity to leading regional environmental issues. Relevant laws and treaties include, but are not limited to, the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Superfund Law, Boundary Waters Treaty and International Migratory Bird Treaty.

- Desired qualifications: One year of law school at the University of Montana, and an interest in how scientific data and analysis intersect with policy and law. The best fit will be for someone interested in some aspect in Natural Resource, Environment, Water, Indian, or International law.

**Supervisors**

- Erin Sexton, Senior Scientist at the Flathead Lake Biological Station
- UM Environmental Law Professor
**Employment Type and Duration**
- Full Time (40 hours/week)
- 6/25/2018 to 8/17/2018

**Compensation**
- $8.30/hour
- Room and board at FLBS provided (approximately $2500 value)

**Required Documents:**
- Resume
- Cover Letter
- Unofficial Transcript

**Qualification**
- Have completed first year of UM Law School by time job starts

**To Apply**
- Go to the Networkx web portal at [https://law-umt.12twenty.com](https://law-umt.12twenty.com)

**Application Deadline:**
- February 15, 2018

**For More Information:**
- Tom Bansak, Assistant Director Flathead Lake Biological Station
  - tom.bansak@umontana.edu; 406-982-3301 x229
- Michelle Bryan, Natural Resources Professor at the UM School of Law
  - michelle.bryan@umontana.edu; 406-243-6753