Montana Beaver Conflict Resolution Program: Mapping Conflict and Program Success

Job Listing: #34135

Western Partner Organizations: National Wildlife Federation

Secondary Partners: Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Freshwater Partners, and Defenders of Wildlife

Short Project Description

This project will include researching different mapping platforms such as Earth Engine, Esri Products, and QGIS to determine the most effective strategy to visually demonstrate beaver conflict in Montana spatially. Once a software/platform has been identified, the student will compile beaver conflict data from across Montana and integrate it into an interactive online map that can be viewed by the public and easily updated in-real-time by program staff.

Long Project Description

In 2019, the National Wildlife Federation, in partnership with the Clark Fork Coalition and Defenders of Wildlife, launched a pilot project to address human-beaver conflicts using non-lethal mitigation methods. With the ample support of a seasonal staff member housed at Defenders of Wildlife, we've sought to build greater tolerance for beavers on the landscape in western Montana, reduce conflicts with beavers, and increase awareness about the many benefits beavers provide for riparian and aquatic health.

Since the pilot year of this program, staff have been collecting data and photos. NWF is seeking an individual with GIS experience or strong desire to learn GIS skills to help in the compilation and visualizing of this data. This will include determining the best spatial platform/software to visualize this data, compile and format data for consistency, use data to visualize and potentially analyze for public and practitioners.

Objectives

- Produce a usable product for conflict mitigation practitioners to visualize conflict data spatially.
- Provide a streamlined and consistent data collection protocol that can be integrated into spatial platform in-real-time.
- Analyze beaver conflict data and provide a summary of results (if time allows).

Deliverables

- Compile a list of mapping software/platforms that can achieve the objectives outlined above
- Provide a final product that visually displays conflict data
- Complete final report documenting process and results.

Qualifications Needed

- Experience in or strong interest in learning (self-paced) GIS platforms such as Esri Products, Google Earth Engine, etc.

- Strong organizational skills and ability to communicate with diverse partner groups
- Knowledge in or desire to learn wildlife conflict resolution and coexistence strategies/best management practices
- Possesses an understanding of stream/wetland restoration practices
- Strong interpersonal skills with the ability to work well with diverse interests, including environmental justice and Tribal representatives, labor, business, rural, and conservation groups
- Ability to thrive in a multiple-task work environment, work independently with minimal supervision, set priorities and follow through to completion, with excellent attention to detail

Commitment: 5-8 hours/week during September 23, 2024 - May 9, 2025

Pay Rate: $16.75/hour

How to Apply:

Apply using the central Yale Student Employment application systems and search for job listing # 34135.

- You will be asked to upload your resume, statement of interest, and an additional document.
- In your statement of interest we would like to learn more about 1) why you are interested in this opportunity and 2) what makes you a good fit for this role.
- In the addition document, please answer these two question concisely:

1. Describe the specific skills, traits, and/or experience you would bring to the project? For skills, please state skill level (e.g., novice, some experience, extensive experience, expert).

2. Describe your learning style.