

## Summer 2023 Internship with the Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit Recovery Project

This position assists with the Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit Recovery Project based near Ephrata Washington. Working alongside professionals from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and partners from the University of Idaho, you will assist with maintaining semi-wild breeding enclosures, capture and release of juvenile rabbits, and numerous research projects (genetics, disease monitoring, dispersal, predation rates). The field season begins in mid May and continues through mid August.

The work will occur in remote areas and be physically demanding, including walking long distances over uneven terrain, lifting and carrying equipment, supplies, and animals. Conditions can be challenging, hot, and involve numerous early mornings. Here are some of the things you will be doing during the internship:

- Husbandry of rabbits in semi-wild breeding enclosures
- Ground surveys to locate and monitor released pygmy rabbits and collect fecal pellets
- Maintenance and construction of enclosures used for rabbit reintroductions
- Game camera monitoring of predator activity in release areas
- Live trapping and transporting rabbits from breeding enclosures to release sites
- Animal handling and sample collection (tissue, fecal pellets) for DNA analysis and disease monitoring
- Operating 4x4 pickup trucks, GPS units, tablets, and game cameras

You will be part of a summer field crew (5-7 people) and housing will be provided in a comfortable field station managed by The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Details of scheduling, start and end dates, and days off will be worked out once the position is filled. There are also opportunities to continue this internship as a research project or senior thesis in Fall 2023 by conducting genetic analyses of fecal samples collected in summer 2023 if interested.

**Financial Support** - This is a stipend based internship for Ecology and Conservation Biology majors and Wildlife Majors only. The student will receive a stipend of \$4000 in salary support paid to student accounts.

**Minimum qualifications:** Intern must have a valid drivers license. The intern must show proof of vaccination against COVID 19 as required by WDFW & TNC. Intern must be able to walk long distances over uneven terrain in hot conditions, lifting and carrying equipment, supplies, and animals. You must have your own transportation to and from Ephrata, Washington.

**Application Requirements:** Interested applicants should submit: 1) a letter of interest, 2) a resume which includes contact information for 3 references, and 3) unofficial transcripts in a single PDF to Patience Mateer (pmateer@uidaho.edu) **by Wednesday Jan 18th.**

**Additional questions:** Lisette Waits: [lwaits@uidaho.edu](mailto:lwaits@uidaho.edu)

**For more information** on the Columbia Basin Pygmy Rabbit Recovery Program see: [https://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/pygmy\\_rabbit/](https://wdfw.wa.gov/conservation/pygmy_rabbit/)

