Conservation Northwest's Cascades to Olympics/Citizen's Wildlife Monitoring Program's in Partnership with Veteran's Ecological Trades Collective learning opportunity. (ILC)

Opportunity Description: Conservation Northwest's Citizen's Wildlife Monitoring Program and Cascades to Olympics Program in partnership with the Veteran's Ecological Trades Collective are seeking a motivated, self-starter to help with an ongoing wildlife camera monitoring project. This ILC will give students an opportunity to become involved with and learn about wildlife conservation, habitat connectivity, non-profit collaboration, field work, camera trapping, biology, GIS mapping products, and environmental science/studies. Qualified students will have excellent communication skills, a passion for environmental work, the ability to sort through large datasets, and a basic understanding of wildlife biology and landscape ecology. Veterans are strongly encouraged to apply.

This is a non-paid quarter long opportunity. While 85 percent of the work will be performed from home or at school, the student will be expected to travel to the site location (20 miles¹ south of Olympia) at least bi-weekly (exact days are flexible and can be agreed upon at a later date with the student and project partners) to spend a couple hours helping with data retrieval, camera maintenance, and camera placement when necessary. Student will need access to either a computer at home or at school, with reliable internet and photo editing/viewing capabilities.

Student will likely spend half of their time (10 hours a week) working on data management and photo identification, for both the target location and for photos collected in other parts of the state by the Citizen's Wildlife Monitoring Program. Student will likely spend the other half of their time (10 hours a week) reading relevant documents, exploring online GIS tools, and potentially attending relevant meetings and work groups when available.

20 hrs. week/4 credits

COVID-19 guidelines for on-site visits

- The student, and all persons at the site, are required to wear a mask and take their temperature before going out to the field site
- No more than 5 people will be present at the same field site

¹ Student will not be reimbursed for mileage.

Onsite Protocols

- Student will be given access to the ILC partner's property, via a security gate pass code
- Student will log onsite hours behind the gate, sending them to the field supervisor and ILC partner. In addition, student will also report onsite hours in the bi-weekly progress report.

Work to Be Performed

- Assist in placing, maintaining, and checking wildlife cameras in an outside environment.
- Read studies, articles, and interact with online GIS maps related to habitat connectivity.
- Sort and manage large sets of photograph data, removing false triggers, and identifying species
- Attend occasional zoom meetings.
- Interact with and join the Citizen's Wildlife Monitoring Program.
- Flexible scheduling.
- Student will need access to either a computer at home or at school, with reliable internet and photo editing/viewing capabilities.

Learning Outcomes

- Will learn methodologies and techniques for wildlife camera monitoring.
- Gain the ability to identify local wildlife species.
- Learn to manage large sets of data.
- Gain an understanding of how on-the-ground science is used in larger landscape level conservation.
- Learn how the Citizen's Wildlife Monitoring Program operates and contributes to regional scientific and conservation efforts.
- Gain an understanding of the overlap between wildlife camera data and habitat connectivity.
- Obtain firsthand experience of how local non-profit organizational partnerships work.
- Learn how conservation is achieved through science.

Progress Monitoring

- Student will draft a 1-2 page bi-weekly report describing key takeaways and learning objective insights and progress. This will be sent to both the Conservation Northwest field supervisor and the MES faculty sponsor.
- Student will check-in with the field supervisor by phone weekly, to discuss concerns, ask questions and get updates.
- Field supervisor will be responsible for generating an evaluation for the student at the end of the quarter.
- Student will still need to follow MES self-evaluation requirements.

Field Supervisor: Brian Stewart M.E.S., Cascades to Olympics Program Coordinator, Conservation Northwest.

If you are interested in this learning opportunity, please send a letter of interest via email to Brian Stewart at <u>bstewart@conservationnw.org</u>