



# MOSAICS IN SCIENCE

## Diversity Internship Program

### 2021 Project Descriptions

<p><b>NPS UNIT: WIND CAVE NATIONAL PARK, MOUNT RUSHMORE NATIONAL MEMORIAL, JEWEL CAVE NATIONAL MONUMENT, AND NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INVENTORY &amp; MONITORING NETWORK</b></p>	<p><b>PD #: 2021512</b></p>
<p><b>Project Title:</b> Wildlife Camera Trap Surveys in Three Parks  <b>Position Type:</b> Mosaics PLC  <b>Primary natural resource discipline:</b> Biological Sciences  <b>Project keywords:</b> wildlife, biology, GIS, interpretation, science  <b>Location:</b> Hot Springs, South Dakota</p>	
<p><b>COVID-19 NOTICE</b></p>	
<p>As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change and evolve, project timelines and structure remain flexible and it may be necessary to postpone start dates, begin work remotely, or reformulate the project’s description. Should any development in the COVID-19 outbreak impair a project’s timeline or results, the SIP Team will work with the park and project mentors to assess the situation and determine the best course of action at that time.</p>	
<p><b>PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND WORK PRODUCTS</b></p>	

**Position Description:** Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Wind Cave National Park, and Jewel Cave National Monument protect over 36,000 acres in the central and southern Black Hills of South Dakota. The SIP Mosaics intern will use vegetation data from Northern Great Plains Inventory & Monitoring Network (NGPN) to find suitable habitat for a variety of small carnivores that are rarely seen in the Black Hills parks (such as pine martens, least weasels, mink, and ermine). The intern will conduct a literature review and design a method to deploy lure stations and/or track plates with trail cameras to capture tracks, images and video of these animals at each park. Additionally, the intern will download and sort images from the cameras and provide content to the interpretation division for use on park websites and social media.

Several of the small carnivores targeted by this project are rarely seen, and have not been documented at all three parks. For example, suitable habitat for the pine marten and ermine exists at Jewel Cave, but these species have not been documented at the park. Similarly, ermine have not yet been documented at Mount Rushmore, and the pine marten has not been found at Wind Cave. This project would contribute to the natural resource knowledge base on these species and their range, and would update the parks' species lists.

This position is offered through the National Park Service's Mosaics in Science Internship Program in partnership with Environment for the Americas.

**Work Products:** The intern will develop species habitat maps in GIS, write a final report on the project, and create at least 6 social media posts highlighting these species and the trail camera results.

## **NATURAL & PHYSICAL WORK ENVIRONMENT**

The intern will live at Wind Cave National Park, which has a summer staff of approximately 80 people and a lively and welcoming park housing environment. The nearest town to Wind Cave (8 miles) is Hot Springs, SD (population ~3,500), which has groceries, gas, restaurants, a small movie theater, and other amenities. Rapid City, SD is 45 miles from Wind Cave and has a population of approximately 75,000 people. Rapid City has larger stores, a shopping mall, and several restaurants. There are many outdoor recreation opportunities in the Black Hills, including rock climbing, biking, camping, caving, and hiking. July and August are the warmest months, when high temperatures climb into the 80s-90s. This position will work in both a field and office setting, with approximately 75% of the time spent in the field. Office space will be provided at each park and at the NGPN office in Rapid City, so that the intern can download data, work on SIP assignments, create social media and web content, and work on their final report. The intern will be provided with a laptop, and will have access to the government network after passing a background check and receiving a PIV access card. The field work will be conducted primarily at Wind Cave, Mount Rushmore, and Jewel Cave. The intern will also have the opportunity to accompany the NGPN I&M vegetation monitoring crew at Badlands National Park or Devils Tower National Monument. Field work will be done within 3 miles of roads. The intern should be prepared to hike over rough terrain, in a range of temperatures and weather conditions. The intern will receive proper safety training prior to any field work. The intern will also spend time driving between Wind Cave and the other parks or NGPN office in a government vehicle (up to 1 hour each way).

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

Required skills include: a good attitude, strong communication skills, valid driver license, and the ability to hike over rough terrain with 30lb packs for short distances (up to approximately 3 miles) in a variety of environmental conditions. Desired skills include: biology degree or major, writing skills, basic computer skills (e.g. Microsoft Word and Excel), familiarity with GIS, science communication experience, previous exposure to wildlife biology, and the ability to work independently. The best candidate would have experience with field biology, mapping, GIS, report-writing, and digital media interpretation.

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent legal resident (“green-card-holder”) between the ages of 18 and 30 years old, inclusive, or veterans up to age 35. Prior to starting this position, a government security background clearance will be required.

### **VEHICLE AND DRIVER LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

**Applicant must have a valid drivers license and a good driving record.**

**A personal vehicle is REQUIRED for this position.**

### **HOUSING**

Park housing is available and will be provided at no cost to the participant. Park housing is available at Wind Cave National Park. If assigned to a shared apartment, the intern would have their own bedroom. All apartments are fully furnished, and have kitchen facilities and bathrooms. The intern would need to bring bedding, cookware, and dishes.

### **INTERNSHIP START/END DATES**

**Start Date:** 5/17/2021

**End Date:** 7/30/2021

Eleven weeks of the internship will be in the park. A mandatory Career and Leadership Workshop will be held in Washington, D.C. from August 1 – 5, 2020.

### **PLEASE DIRECT ANY QUESTIONS TO ENVIRONMENT FOR THE AMERICAS**

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