

## 2025 Internship opportunity with Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area

*This is a paid internship position(s) through MSU's Institute on Ecosystems in partnership with Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area.*

**Position Description:** This internship provides opportunities to work with the National Park Service and specifically Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area, located south of Billings, Montana.

Established in 1966, Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area (BICA), located on the Wyoming/Montana border, encompasses approximately 120,000 acres centered around a 72-mile lake created by the Yellowtail Dam set in a picturesque canyon. It is well known for wildlife and wild horses, along with great recreational activities on both land and water. The Bighorn River below the Yellowtail Dam is considered one of the best blue ribbon trout fisheries in the United States. Check out [Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#) to learn more about this site.

This intern will work with BICA resource and interpretation divisions along with other national park scientists through the Greater Yellowstone Network and the US Geological Survey. Seventy percent of the intern's time will be focused on Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) monitoring and education. This will include monitoring and collecting eDNA samples, becoming a certified AIS inspector, conducting boat inspections, and educating the public about the importance of keeping AIS out of our waters. Keeping the Bighorn River watershed free of aquatic invasives is critical for both dam operations and maintaining world class fisheries. The other 30% of the time will be gaining opportunities with others such as with interpretation and fieldwork with the resource division and the Greater Yellowstone Network. The intern will learn to create outreach materials (presentations and handouts) that make complex scientific concepts approachable and meaningful to the public. The intern will use these skills to give campground programs, guided hikes, kayak programs, and cultural site tours. There will also be opportunities to present programs to local schools, museums, and libraries. In this program, the intern will have the opportunity to work with the intern will gain experience with and exposure to many different career fields with the National Park Service. This will be valuable for advancing a career in land management.

This internship is comprised of a 5 days a week, 8 hours a day work schedule. The intern will have to need to work weekends and holidays and may include working early or late in the day. While some of the work will be indoors, most of the work will be completed outside on pavement, on the lake, or walking across uneven desert and mountain surfaces. This is a physical position that requires standing, using a kayak, conducting fieldwork off-trail, guiding hikes, and using automated equipment to collect eDNA samples.

Park housing is provided in Lovell. It is a 3-bedroom house with private bedrooms and all other spaces (e.g., kitchen, bathroom, living room) shared.

The intern will be required to attend BICA orientation training and safety programs prior to entering the field. We will provide opportunities to take American Red Cross (or equivalent) CPR and First Aid courses.

The intern should anticipate working from late May through early August in desert weather conditions and in the presence of insects and wildlife. Temperatures can range from rainy 50 to 70-degree days to over 100-degrees. Days can be long. Supervisors work closely with field crew members to implement assigned work safely and efficiently. The intern will be expected to collect data following established protocols and complete AIS boat inspections.

The intern is expected to be inquisitive and engaged through hands-on and active participation in work, planning and logistics, being proactive in learning new skills, self-sufficient in backcountry and front country environments, supportive of other crew members, and to conduct themselves professionally as a representative of the National Park Service. The intern will be required to have a federal background check to use and access government IT equipment and have a drivers license.

A full commitment and scheduling flexibility are required through the employment tenure.

**Contact information:** Interested applicants should send a letter of interest, resume, and contact information for three references to: [Bill\\_Pickett@nps.gov](mailto:Bill_Pickett@nps.gov)