

## Description

The National Park Service is conducting research on multiple carnivore species in the Santa Monica Mountains, including mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, and gray foxes. Projects are designed to assess the effects of habitat fragmentation/urban encroachment on the ecology of carnivores and focus on presence, abundance, survival, causes of mortality, disease prevalence, diet, movement, reproduction, and dispersal. We are currently accepting applications for one mountain lion research and ecology internship position to begin September 12th 2022, or soon after.

Major Duties: (You will increase skills in, or learn to)

- Assist wildlife biologists with mountain lion capture activities and GPS collaring
  - Conduct ground-based radio telemetry (including triangulation) on mountain lions
  - Hike in on mountain lion kill sites to document prey remains
  - Assist with the placement and maintenance of remote camera traps
  - Manage data collected from remote cameras. Identify, tag, and enter remote camera photos in database. Map mountain lion GPS data in GIS and produce maps of location clusters.
  - May also assist with some of the parks other wildlife studies including other carnivore projects, roadway projects, stream surveys and pitfall trapping.
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## Qualifications

### Requirements

- Must be a US citizen or permanent resident of the United States
- College students and recent graduates are eligible.
- Educational interest and experience in Biology, Ecology or related field
- Must have previous field experience working on a wildlife project
- Previous experience in using radio telemetry to locate free-roaming animals preferred • Previous carnivore trapping experience is highly desirable
- Ability to hike many miles a day on uneven terrain carrying a 50+lb pack
- Must be able to lift and drag heavy deer carcasses (frozen or rotting) to mountain lion baiting/capture sites • Experience in the use of GPS units for navigation
- Knowledge of Excel and data entry in Access is helpful.
- Ability to work well both independently and as part of a team, be detail-oriented and organized, and follow safe working practices
- Good oral and written communication skills and ability to follow oral and written directions.
- Valid driver's license is required.

- Must have own transportation to and from worksite. Government vehicles are available for intern use within the scope of their internship.
- Background check and/or fingerprint check may be required.
- A positive working attitude Work Site and Conditions:
- Substantial amounts of hiking alone in rough terrain, such as dense chaparral, abundant poison oak, rocky streams, and steep mountains.
- Driving in very urban areas through heavy traffic
- Minimum commitment of 6 months, full-time. Work schedule may include weekdays, weekends, nights, and holidays Compensation
- A stipend of \$5,400.00 is provided for the 6 month internship
- Full-time interns from outside the area may be eligible for shared housing.

To apply, submit the following documents via email to [jeff\\_sikich@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_sikich@nps.gov)

- Letter of intent (include how the position will benefit your career, the dates you are available, your understanding that this internship is unpaid, except for the stipend, and that you have your own vehicle for transportation to and from work)
  - Resume
  - College transcripts (unofficial are acceptable)
  - Three reference contacts (Include email and phone)
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# Rachel Sparks

Mountain Lion Research and Ecology Intern

rachel\_sparks@uri.edu | +1 (860) 368-9247 | North Kingstown, RI

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Jeff Sikich

National Park Service

10/01/2022

Dear Mr. Sikich,

My name is Rachel Sparks and I'm applying for the Mountain Lion Research and Ecology Intern position that was posted on the Texas A&M Natural Resources Job Board. I would love to learn and develop my skills in the field by being a part of a project such as this.

As a photographer, I'm capable of carrying around heavy equipment in the field. In my field classes at the University of Rhode Island, I have been able to learn and execute many skills such as radio telemetry and GPS tracking. As a part of a group, I developed our own research project on how greenbrier presence around a bird nest impacts the rate of predation. For over a month we collected our own data to later analyze for a relationship. I also personally have been managing 3 trail cameras in different remote locations for about 3 years and have been able to find many bobcats, coyotes, and foxes.

As a naturally curious person, I strive to attain more knowledge. In a group, I cherish the time I get with my teammates so we can all develop more from each other. I would love to learn more about mountain lions and be able to help develop our knowledge on how they are impacted by habitat fragmentation and how to mitigate human caused injuries and illnesses. Thank you so much for considering me for this internship and if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email at [rachel\\_sparks@uri.edu](mailto:rachel_sparks@uri.edu).

Sincerely,

Rachel Sparks

# Rachel Sparks

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## EDUCATION

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**University of Rhode Island - Kingston, Rhode Island**  
Bachelors of Science in Wildlife and Conservation Biology

**May 2023**

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

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- **Wildlife Field Techniques**
  - Application of field techniques to quantify and evaluate wildlife and habitat
- **Wildlife Ecology and Management**
  - Application of ecology to the management of wild vertebrate populations and their habitats
- **Vertebrate Zoology**
  - Application of identification and surveying methods of vertebrate animals in the field

## EXPERIENCE

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### **Pet Sitter / Walker**

**December 2016 - Present**

Self Employed, *New England*

- Cared for pets' needs
- Interacted with skittish animals
- Ensured health and safety of the animals
- Entrusted to be in clients' homes unattended

### **Piping Plover Nesting Habitat Volunteer**

**March 2022**

US Fish and Wildlife Service, *Rhode Island*

- Assisted with blocking off beach for the plover nesting area
- Placed poles, secured rope between them with a clove hitch knot, and posted signage
- Hiked miles on the beach carrying equipment for a majority of the day

### **Front of House Intern**

**November 2017 - December 2021**

Theater Works Hartford, *Hartford, Connecticut*

- Worked as part of a team doing a wide range of jobs to ensure a good experience for customers
- Communicated information about the show to coworkers and customers
- Maintained a clean work environment

## SKILLS

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- **Technical:** R-studio, Microsoft Excel, Google Suite, GPS locating, Radiotelemetry, Triangulation, Trail Camera Set Up and Maintaining, Wildlife Trapping, North American Mammal Identification
- **Statistical:** Logistic Regression, Linear Regression, Occupancy Modeling, AIC, ANOVA, Chi-squared, t-test

## OTHER

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- **Certifications, Training, & Licenses:** First Aid, CPR, Class D Driver's License
- **Languages:** English (Native), Russian (Advanced), French (Intermediate)

## REFERENCES

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Available upon request