



Internship Announcement

POSITION: Hillis Intern
REPORTS TO: Conservation Program Director
LOCATION: Bend, Oregon or other Central Oregon location
CLASSIFICATION: Limited duration part-time paid internship
DURATION: 8 to 12 weeks in summer 2022

DESCRIPTION

Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) is a conservation organization with a mission to protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert. With offices in Bend and Portland, Oregon, we represent more than 14,000 members and supporters in the state and across the country. ONDA's Hillis Internship was launched in 2021 to honor one of those members, Harv Hillis, and his passion for desert conservation and stewardship. The Hillis Internship Program provides early career individuals with valuable learning and professional growth opportunities while contributing to the conservation and restoration of Oregon's desert landscapes.

Our summer 2022 Hillis Internship will be hosted by ONDA's Conservation Program that engages in planning, policymaking and advocacy in pursuit of improved management and protection of desert wildlands, waters, wildlife, and cultural and historic resources. This has included numerous proposals to designate wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers and conserve wildlife habitat in the [John Day River Basin](#), one of ONDA's five priority landscapes in eastern Oregon. Among the longest free-flowing rivers in the nation, the John Day winds through ruggedly beautiful country of mountainous terrain, steep river canyons, and stunning scenic vistas. The watershed is essential habitat for wild steelhead, Chinook salmon, bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, Interior redband trout, mule deer, elk, mountain lions, golden eagles and countless other resident and migratory bird species.

New and evolving conservation opportunities in the John Day require updating ONDA's conservation strategy for the region. Starting with past strategy documents and in consultation with ONDA staff, our summer 2022 Hillis Intern will research potential conservation in the John Day Basin, interview key stakeholders, tour the watershed and develop a new conservation vision that reflects the latest legislative and administrative, federal, state and local prospects for providing lasting protection to the region. The project will involve drafting a comprehensive John Day River Basin Conservation Strategy that identifies opportunities and challenges to public lands conservation and management, as well as the resources and relationships required to organize, advocate and secure conservation gains, augmented by a full set of maps of land ownership, federal and state designations and species occurrence across the region.

This internship is a part-time position, eight to twelve weeks in duration in summer 2022. Applicants can work in Bend or another community centrally located in the John Day region. The job will involve desk work, interviews with individuals and entities and field visits. The intern will be provided a laptop computer; familiarity with Microsoft Office products is required. ONDA will cover travels costs and supply other equipment and supplies, as needed, for office and field work, and/or reimburse the intern for use of their own vehicle, equipment or supplies. Field visits may require physical exertion such as

prolonged hiking over rough or steep terrain. The intern will be expected to conduct duties in a safe and orderly manner so as not to endanger self and others, or damage property with which they are entrusted. Office activities will require prolonged periods of sitting and computer work.

SKILLS GAINED

The intern will develop a broad and deep understanding of public lands management, natural resource conservation, natural history, legislative and administrative processes and policymaking, and local and tribal perspectives and preferences in the John Day River Basin. They will enhance their research, writing, and organizing skills, and build relationships with stakeholders and constituencies; local, state and federal decision-makers; and tribal, community and conservation organizations that are the foundation of a successful career in advocacy and policymaking. Finally, they will make new friends and important contacts with staff, members, and supporters at ONDA, and our members and supporters dedicated to conservation of Oregon's high desert and the John Day River Basin.

ELIGIBILITY & DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS

The Hillis Internship is open to early career individuals with a demonstrated interest in ONDA's conservation mission. Early career individuals are defined as:

- 1) Students currently enrolled in a post-secondary educational institution (e.g., undergraduate, graduate, 4-year university, 2-year college, trade school, etc.);
- 2) Recent graduates who have completed a post-secondary degree or certificate within the past 12 months, or
- 3) Independent students who are pursuing an education or experience – formal or informal, within or without the bounds of a traditional educational institution – in a subject area related to ONDA's mission and the internship.

COMPENSATION

This internship is a 15-20 hour/week part-time position paying \$19/hour. It includes pro-rated paid holidays, plus food and travel costs for field activities. Transportation, equipment and training are provided by ONDA.

TO APPLY

ONDA uses an anonymous applicant screening process to ensure fair and objective applicant evaluation. To help facilitate this review, please submit your application via email, with your email including two separate attachments as follows:

- 1) Attachment #1: A single page that includes your name, address, email and telephone number. Do not include this identifying information anywhere else in your attachments.
- 2) Attachment #2: A cover letter (without your name, address, email or telephone number) describing your qualifications and interest in the internship, resume (without your name, address, email or telephone number), and the contact information for two references. This information should be combined into a single .doc or .pdf file.

Please submit these application materials to Hillisintern@onda.org no later than 5:00PM (Pacific Time), July 6, 2022.

ABOUT OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION

For three decades Oregon Natural Desert Association (ONDA) has connected people to public lands and championed the conservation and stewardship of central and eastern Oregon's wildlands, waterways and wildlife. ONDA's mission is to protect, defend and restore Oregon's high desert. From promoting land protection to speaking out for fish and wildlife, ONDA's members and supporters sustain Oregon's high desert, and the natural, cultural, historical and recreational values found there. ONDA envisions a high desert in Oregon where eight million acres of public lands are conserved to ensure that fish and wildlife thrive and wild places exist for all people to treasure and explore, now and always. <https://ONDA.org>

ONDA IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

ONDA is committed to diversity, equity and inclusion and seeks to create an inclusive environment for all volunteers, partners, collaborators and employees. Our commitment to diversity includes the recognition that our mission is best advanced by the leadership and contributions of people of diverse backgrounds, beliefs and cultures. We strongly encourage applicants from all cultures, races, colors, religions, sexes, national or regional origins, ages, disability status, sexual orientation, gender identity, military, protected veteran status or other status protected by law. Please review our commitment to fostering diversity, equity, inclusion and justice in environmental conservation at <https://onda.org/justice/>.