



Grayling Forest Management Unit, MDNR
Huron Pines AmeriCorps Position Description

POSITION TITLE: Conservation Technician
PRIMARY SERVICE LOCATION: Grayling, Michigan
RESPONSIBLE TO: Susan Thiel, Unit Manager, Grayling FMU

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources manages over 276,000 acres of state-owned land in the Grayling Forest Management Unit (FMU) located in Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, and Iosco Counties. The Grayling FMU has two natural rivers running through it, the headwaters of the Upper Manistee River and the AuSable River. The large amount of state land combined with a large amount of river interface result in heavy public recreational use on these state lands. Lands in the FMU are managed for multiple objectives including wildlife, fisheries, timber, and recreation. FMU staff interfaces with numerous volunteer groups who assist with management and restoration of our natural resources, particularly in conjunction with the rivers. Better communication, coordination and follow up with these volunteer groups would allow for more work to be accomplished, provide for better communication and education of volunteers, and would result in quality work being accomplished across the landscape. Facilitating volunteer efforts will help the MDNR accomplish their goal of protection and sustainable management of our natural resources. Aggressively tackling invasive species, helping with habitat restoration, and fixing erosion sites are just a few of the ways our environment can benefit from better coordinated volunteer efforts. An individual whose time is dedicated towards fostering relationships with our many volunteers will result in growth of this valuable program.

In partnership with the Huron Pines AmeriCorps program, we are offering an opportunity for a full time member to serve with the Forest Resources Division of the DNR. This position will develop new programs and coordinate with existing conservation programs to include monitoring of volunteer activities; interacting and educating citizens and volunteer organizations; development of interpretive and other outreach materials, monitoring and removal of invasive plants, and the development of natural resource inventories and restoration plans. The position will collaborate with Department staff and volunteers to collect resource information and implement on the ground restoration projects including invasive species control, erosion site stabilization, wildlife habitat improvement, forest regeneration, and monitoring of wildlife and plant species.

The successful applicant will have a strong natural resources background, knowledge of wildlife, botany, or forestry, and be comfortable working collaboratively with people individually and with groups. The member should be able to prioritize and manage multiple projects simultaneously and have the ability to work independently. The member may be required to complete tasks alone in the field in a variety of adverse weather and terrain conditions. Members will be trained in safety protocol and preference will be given to candidates with excellent written and verbal communication skills.

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Member will be required to obtain pesticide applicator's credentials and hands on experience with power tools, and on-the-ground conservation projects are preferred.

SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF SERVICE: The Conservation Technician will be involved in a diverse set of projects to improve natural resources management in the MDNR Grayling FMU. Some experience dealing with the public and conducting scientific surveys is preferred. Onsite training will also be provided. The member will be involved in developing new conservation programs including using volunteers to conduct species surveys and conduct restoration and habitat improvement. The member will design and develop outreach materials and perform field surveys. Service locations include the Grayling MDNR Field Office, other public office sites, and a variety of field sites within Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, and Iosco Counties. Most travel will be day travel around the forest and physical activity will be required.

POSITION DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES Creating new services or programs

- Serve as volunteer coordinator for the FMU to assist with promotion and coordination of volunteer efforts, making sure appropriate permits and permissions are obtained, perform oversight on projects and documentation, and follow up. Examples of volunteer projects include Trout Unlimited river bank stabilization, Anglers of the AuSable river clean up, Friends of the Mason Tract pathway maintenance, Michigan Trail Riders horse trail maintenance, Boy Scout restoration projects, Cedars for the AuSable cedar planting, maintenance of the Beal Plantation, Boardman River Clean Sweep river clean up, AuSable Property Owners Association & North Branch Assn Purple Loosestrife monitoring and removal, Upper Manistee River Restoration Committee restoration and habitat projects, PREVEL monitoring and removal of invasive plants, and more.
- Provide environmental education programs to local schools and organizations on current topics. Assist with Kirtland Warbler Education programs & KW Calendar contest for Grayling Schools and provide assistance when needed with the Kirtland Warbler Festival.
- Assist with festivals and educational events such as Kirtland Warbler Festival, Detroit River Days, and Forest Fest. To serve as one of the primary coordinators of Forest Fest, a festival day at Hartwick Pines State Park that educates the public about forest management. As lead, this individual will work with Park Interpreters to develop forest fest passport activities and set up displays and vendors to support the one day educational event.
- Write press releases for local publications and radio stations on current volunteer efforts and natural resource topics. We would like to strive having an article developed highlighting unit activities once a month
- Develop informational and interpretive materials and displays on current projects that we want to promote at local State Park visitor centers and other locations such as local library, rest areas, etc.
- Develop environmental stewardship materials to assist with volunteer projects, landowner interface, and environmental education programs to promote current efforts.
- Meet with local landowners and organizations to promote current projects such as identification and removal of invasive plants.

- Implementing on the ground restoration projects for a variety of management objectives.
- Identify sites and develop restoration plans for eroded and damaged sites along the river and on recreational corridors. Seek out resources to perform restoration.
- Assist with wildlife habitat restoration
- Perform habitat improvement work on badly degraded oil and gas well sites
- Develop trail and pathway re-routes to avoid resource damage
- Maintain documentation and perform Inventory for invasive plants on state forest land and watercourses and develop plans to address invasive species
- Obtain pesticide applicator's credentials and work at invasive species eradication per approved plans, which may involve use of herbicide.
- Gas and oil well site monitoring
- Conduct forest regeneration surveys and infrastructure inventory
- Develop a plan for native landscaping for the Grayling Field Office
- Take part in wildlife/fisheries/plant surveys if needed, such as annual Kirtland Warbler census, pine barrens plant inventory, etc.
- Participate in training and safety workshops and Department staff meetings
- Participate in inventory at the Forest Fire Experiment Station in Roscommon during the winter months.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:

- Prepare and submit 2-week schedules, timesheets and mileage reimbursement forms
- Conduct at least 2 presentations to community groups about Huron Pines AmeriCorps
- Engage at least 30 volunteers in conservation activities
- Submit 4 "Great Stories"
- Provide regular project updates and photos for the website
- Represent yourself as a Huron Pines AmeriCorps member at all times
- Attend required trainings provided by the AmeriCorps Coordinator

QUALIFICATIONS:

- ✓ Bachelor's Degree
- ✓ Computer efficiency (typing, email, word processing, excel)
- ✓ Ability to pass a background check*
- ✓ U.S. citizen, national, or lawful permanent resident alien
- ✓ Commitment to conserving the forests, lakes and streams of Northeast Michigan

On occasion, service will be required at an off-site location. Use of a personal vehicle may be required to perform duties (mileage will be reimbursed). This is a 40 hour per week position and runs from January 4-November 9, 2018. Benefits include \$12,630 living stipend, health insurance, \$5,730 education award and student loan deferment.

Applications and directions are available at www.huronpines.org/ameriCorps and will be accepted until September 29, 2017.

Reasonable accommodations: If you need to make a request for a reasonable accommodation, due to a disability, such as obtain materials in a format that works for you or to fully participate in the application process, please contact Jake Jermac, AmeriCorps Coordinator at (989) 448-2293 x30 or jake@huronpines.org.

*Registered sex offenders are not eligible for AmeriCorps positions.