



## *Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge 2010 Environmental Education Internships*

**Location:** Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge is located 20 miles east of Des Moines, Iowa, and is one of the first prairie reconstruction projects ever attempted. The Refuge consists of 5400 acres, 3000 of which has been returned to prairie. Bison and elk roam the 700 acre enclosure, while white-tail deer, mink, coyotes, owls and numerous songbirds also wander throughout the Refuge. The hundreds of plants that make up the prairie landscape create an ever-changing kaleidoscope of color. Interns will have a fantastic opportunity to explore this endangered ecosystem.



**Duties:** Interns will assist Neal Smith NWR staff in a diversity of Visitor Services projects including: environmental education, curriculum development, program presentations, Partner School Program development, staffing the Visitor Center information desk, assistance with public special events, and trail maintenance.

**Benefits:** The internship will generally run 9 - 12 weeks, with two seasons available, March – June, and June – August. The intern will receive a stipend of \$2880 to \$3800 for 9-12 weeks respectively. Refuge staff will work with students to fulfill internship credit requirements at individual universities, including assigning independent projects. Housing is not provided. There are several rental opportunities in the local area.



**Qualifications:** Anyone interested in applying should be able to work independently or in small groups, have excellent verbal/writing skills, and have a background in environmental education, interpretation or a related field. Basic computer skills and a valid driver's license are required.

**To Apply:** The following must be received by the dates listed below: 1) a one-page cover letter describing personal background and interests, 2) a detailed resume noting education, experience, and skills, 3) unofficial college transcripts, 4) a letter of recommendation including the name, affiliation, address, telephone, and email address of the person writing the letter. Information should be sent to: **Hallie Rasmussen, Visitor Services Specialist, Neal Smith NWR, PO Box 399, Prairie City, IA 50228.**

**Applications for the Spring 2010 internship are due Feb. 28, 2010**  
**Applications for the Summer 2010 internships are due April 30, 2010.**

For additional information contact Hallie Rasmussen at (515) 994-3400 or [hallie\\_rasmussen@fws.gov](mailto:hallie_rasmussen@fws.gov) , or go to <http://www.tallgrass.org> or <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nealsmith/>