PROJECT TITLE: NATIONAL LAND IMAGING STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

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Discipline: Hazards; Ecology; Modeling; Wildlife Biology; Surface Water; Climate Science; General Geology; Remote Sensing Science (The selected intern would focus on remote sensing and Earth observations, but their background could be in any of the selected fields above)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

BACKGROUND

The fundamental goal of the U.S. Geological Survey National Land Imaging (NLI) Program is to provide the Federal Government and the public with a primary source of remotely sensed data and applications and to be a leader in defining the future of land remote sensing, nationally and internationally. To achieve this goal, the NLI Program acquires regional and global remotely sensed datasets from multiple sources; participates in defining and developing future satellite missions; ensures the preservation of and access to the Nation's remotely sensed land data; and, expands the understanding and applications of remotely sensed data.

The surface of the Earth is changing rapidly, at local, regional, national, and even global scales, with significant repercussions for people, the economy, and the environment. The NLI Program provides land-imaging information that is broad, precise, impartial, and easily available. Resulting applications benefit society in myriad ways: from assessing the impact of natural disasters to monitoring global agricultural production; from monitoring the impact of climate and other global changes to supporting national defense.

INTERN TASKS

The National Land Imaging (NLI) Program needs to regularly and effectively communicate the value of land-imaging information to key decision-makers in the Administration, Congress, and external stakeholder communities. The Program also seeks to leverage capabilities of key interagency, international, and other external partners.

The incumbent for this position will support NLI efforts to advance its strategic communications, outreach, and collaboration with stakeholders. This work would encompass the following activities:

- Support development of internal and external briefings and NLI Program-related publications to communicate the value and impact of land-imaging data.

- Arrange meetings in support of interaction with key stakeholders in government, academia, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private industry.

- Provide administrative support for NLI Program activities and initiatives with interagency and international partners.
• Work with USGS staff to provide fundamental research to demonstrate the socioeconomic benefits of USGS scientific data.

• Other related communications/outreach/coordination activities as assigned.

Travel is not required, although certain meetings/events may provide that opportunity (following eventual cessation of Covid-19 operating/travel restrictions). There may be opportunities for it under post-pandemic circumstances whereby the student would be given the opportunity to attend and support communication and collaborative meetings.

**BENEFITS TO INTERN**

With respect to the student’s major, remote sensing and Earth observations can be directly related to many fields with state-of-the-art applications the intern can utilize in future efforts, be it graduate studies or entering the workforce upon graduation. As a member of the National Land Imaging Program team, s/he will have ample opportunities to meet and work with leading remote sensing experts both within the USGS and DOI, other Federal agencies and the private sector. The selected intern will also benefit from supporting communication efforts at the international level since NLI has numerous partners in global programs and organizations. The Program will provide professional development opportunities in Earth observations and remote sensing which can further strengthen the student’s technical skill set, thus enhancing a strong STEM background.

**MENTORING PLAN**

Mentoring plays a vital role in the professional development of interns; and as such, the National Land Imaging Program would fully support all mentoring efforts for an intern selected for the Program. NLI managers and scientists would meet regularly with our intern to discuss potential future goals and professional development opportunities. NLI Program management would also ensure the intern and their supervisor would be available for mentoring meetings with the YES Office to ensure the internship is a rewarding and productive experience. If there are social or interactive activities with other YES-sponsored interns at the USGS, NLI would also encourage our intern to participate along with utilizing internship resources available through the YES Program.

**ADDITIONAL DETAILS**

**STUDENT SKILLS AND INTERESTS**

Interested candidates should have the following educational background, knowledges, skills and abilities:

--In the process of obtaining an undergraduate degree in the social or physical sciences

--Excellent written and oral communications skills

--Ability to work independently

--Collegiality, flexibility, and good time management skills

A knowledge of Earth science, remote sensing, and GIS is desired, but not required.

**LOCATION:** Reston, VA

**ACTIVITY LEVEL:**

Level 8-1: The work is sedentary. Typically, the employee may sit comfortably to do the work. However, there may be some walking; standing; bending; carrying of light items such as papers, books, or small parts; or driving an automobile. No special physical demands are required to perform the work.

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