2018 Summer Internship for the Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest Ecoblitz | Indiana Forest Alliance

**IFA Mission:** The Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the long-term health and well-being of Indiana’s native forests. We work to provide accurate information about our forests particularly our public forests, and seek to involve Hoosiers in efforts to conserve and restore our forests.

**We are looking for:** A highly motivated undergrad or graduate student with a course of study in forest ecology, the natural sciences, and Indiana’s natural heritage and a willingness to spend long, hot summer days and a few evenings ‘in the field’ deep in the Indiana woods. Desirable traits include: good note-taking, writing and researching ability, well organized and ability to focus on the tasks at hand while multiple conversations are occurring, and experience with databases and GIS location and mapping software.

**Background:**
- IFA’s Ecoblitz is a comprehensive inventory of flora and fauna on tracts of mature forest in the state forests and Hoosier National Forest in southern Indiana. The Ecoblitz is finishing its first inventory on a 900-acre tract of state forest land in the heart of the Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest Back Country Area in Monroe and Brown Counties, completing a report of the results of that inventory and examining new sites on which the Ecoblitz inventory will continue in 2018.

- Eleven teams of scientists and plant and animal enthusiasts surveyed the first tract to document small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, spiders, insects, aquatic macro-invertebrates, vascular plants, bryophytes, fungi and lichens that survive in this older, “interior forest.” After four years of surveying, scientists have documented some 3,500 species or taxa present in the Ecoblitz forest. Many state rare and endangered animals, plants, fungi and lichen have been found including some species of arthropods that are new to science, yet to be identified by experts, or have never been identified in Indiana before. Nesting and successful reproductive activity has been documented for several state endangered and rare species such as the cerulean and worm-eating warblers and timber rattlesnake.

- Our state forests contain large tracts of older forests that comprise much of the best habitat remaining for rare, threatened, and endangered species of native plants and animals in Indiana. Current management plans have increase logging of these tracts by 400% in the last ten years and could eliminate this interior forest habitat within 11 years depending upon the decisions of land managers in the Indiana Division of Forestry. The Ecoblitz is generating important information about the natural diversity of older unlogged portions of the state forests and documenting the need for undisturbed interior forests that will inform land managers about the biological value of keeping significant tracts of state forests in an unlogged condition.

- In its fifth year, scientists and Ecoblitz program staff are finishing surveys of moths and bees in the Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood Back Country Area, presenting a final report of the Ecoblitz inventory results in this Back Country Area to the Indiana Academy of Science, state and federal agencies and the public, and examining forest tracts in the
Hoosier National Forest and other state forests on which to continue the Ecoblitz inventories. We will also develop a plan for these inventories and undertake the initial steps of that plan in the field. The final report on the Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood will discuss the total biodiversity of this forest, the dependence on its interior forest habitat by state and federal listed species, and the stand structure, composition, health and quality of this unlogged tract of forest relative to younger, managed tracts of the state forests.

**Work Activities Include Some or All of the Following:**

- Participating in conference calls of the Ecoblitz Planning Committee and taking minutes and notes on decisions made in those calls;
- Assisting the Ecoblitz Planning Committee to post information to the Ecoblitz listserv, prepare written information, relay information between team leaders and the Planning Committee and disseminate other information as needed;
- Assisting Ecoblitz scientists and program staff in the examination of new sites in the Hoosier National Forest and state forests for the Ecoblitz inventories;
- Working in the field (in the Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forest Back Country Area, other state forests and Hoosier National Forest) on the weekends of Ecoblitz surveys which can include Friday evenings and/or Monday mornings and occasionally during the week, undertaking the following tasks:
  - Setting up (in the mornings of surveys) and taking down (at the end of survey days) tents, canopies, chairs, tables, food, water, and informational handouts at the field headquarters;
  - Transporting scientists and teams to put in and take out points for surveys;
  - Assisting in survey identifications and/or collections of taxa;
  - Carrying equipment involved in surveys;
  - Managing information in the field, such as survey routes and survey identification sheets and documenting identifications and location information in the field;
  - Ensuring that survey debriefings occur from team leaders;
- Collecting and managing information from survey weekends necessary for IFA and Team Leaders to prepare the final report for the results of the Ecoblitz surveys of 2016;
- Preparing maps of the locations of rare, threatened or endangered species identifications and their activities;

**Compensation & Timing:** will be in the form of a stipend through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. The intern will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning May 29 and ending August 3, unless otherwise negotiated. Interns will be required to attend a “boot camp” from May 14 to May 18, 2018.

**Reimbursements:** Lodging, food and fuel costs for field work incurred as a result of the internship will be reimbursed.

**Application Instructions:** To apply for this position, email a resume and cover letter indicating the ISDP position(s) to which you are applying to isdp@indiana.edu. If you have questions about the program or any of the jobs available, email ISDP at isdp@indiana.edu. The application deadline is Feb. 28, 2018.

For more info about the Indiana Forest Alliance, visit [www.indianaforestalliance.org](http://www.indianaforestalliance.org) or call 317-602-3692.