



Ninilchik Traditional Council

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VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

INTERNSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENT DATE: May 8, 2026

POSITION TITLE: Ninilchik Seasonal Internship

POSITION TYPE: Full Time/Temporary

CLOSING DATE: When Filled

TERM: June 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026

SALARY: \$18-\$22 per hour DOE

POSITION SUMMARY:

This internship will support fieldwork, communications, and outreach related to beaver restoration and research on the Kenai Peninsula peatlands. The project explores how beavers and beaver dam analogs can influence water levels, carbon storage, and habitat for critical species such as fish and moose. Working with the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (KBNER) and Alaska Wildlife Alliance (AWA), the intern will contribute to this effort by participating in fieldwork, documenting fieldwork, and communications. Through photography, videos, and blog writing, the intern will help communicate the value of healthy peatlands to partners, decision-makers, and the public. The intern will also help connect this project with other local habitat restoration initiatives. The fieldwork component of this internship will be led locally by Syverine Bentz, with desk-based management, communications guidance and support from Chelsey Cook and Emily Mesner at the Alaska Wildlife Alliance. Through this experience, the intern will gain hands-on exposure to field-based environmental science while developing skills in science communication, multimedia storytelling, and conservation outreach. The internship will take place from June 1- August 31, 2026. Intern will be hired by Ninilchik Traditional Council (NTC), and managed by AWA and NTC. The Intern will work remotely, or at the NTC office.

PROPOSED FIELDWORK: (Dates are subject to change)

Note, each week will have rolling one-to-one meetings with AWA Communications staff and long-term communications projects to work on when not in the field.

- **Week of June 1:** Orientation
 - **June 1:** KBNER Intern Orientation and Field Safety 10 am -1 pm (Homer)
 - **June 3/4:** Beaver and BDA site orientation and dam maintenance (Happy Valley)
- **Week of June 8:** Beaver and BDA site monitoring and content gathering with interdisciplinary Research Team and AWA Comms team (Happy Valley)
 - **June 11/12:** site visit with PEW Trust
- **Week of June 15:** Habitat Model Field Validation (Deep Creek and Anchor River drainages) with field team + content development
 - **June 17:** CPR certification 10 am - 4 pm
 - **June 16, 18, 24:** Beaver Habitat Model Validation field work days
- **Week of June 22:** Habitat Model Field Validation (Deep Creek and Anchor River drainages)
 - **June 22:** Kachemak Sponge Vegetation Surveys (Homer)
- **Week of June 29:** Option to join Juvenile Salmon estuary work beach seining
- **Week of July 13:** Habitat Model Field Validation (Deep Creek and Anchor River drainages)
- **Week of July 20:** Partner Engagement Events (Homer)
 - **July 21/22:** Land Trust, Fish Need Land Too event
- **Week of July 27:** Option to join Juvenile Salmon estuary work beach seining (Anchor River)
- **Week of August 3:** Alternate dates for Beaver Habitat Model Validation field work
- **August 10:** Alaska Wild Salmon Day, option to join Beluga salt marsh monitoring (Homer)

- **August 24:** Final intern report due
- **August 28:** Internship ends

SCOPE OF WORK:

The intern will support fieldwork, communications, and community engagement related to the peatland restoration on the southern Kenai Peninsula. The intern will work with staff from KBNERR and AWA to conduct fieldwork, document field days, and assist in communication and outreach.

Key responsibilities will include:

Field Participation and Documentation

- Participate in fieldwork days on the dates outlined above.
- Document fieldwork through photography, video, and notes.
- Observe and learn field techniques related to habitat assessments, restoration and monitoring.

Science Communication and Communications Support

- Work with NTC Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) coordinator, Elders program staff, and AWA to document Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)/Traditional Indigenous Knowledge (TIK) of beavers in the southern Kenai Peninsula and present findings through story maps, in writing, or other communications.
- Work with AWA's team to develop multimedia content that communicates the ecological and cultural role of peatlands and the goals of the restoration and research projects.
- Create content that highlights fieldwork and community perspectives on beavers and peatlands.
- Translate research and field experiences into accessible content for Tribal partners.
- Contribute to documentation and storytelling that can be shared with partners, funders, and the broader community.

Deliverables

This internship will focus on TEK/TIK of beavers and can include cultural harvest protocols for beavers and fish, documentation of stewardship or ceremonies guided by community members, and archival research of photos and videos of beavers, peatlands and/or fish on the Kenai Peninsula.

- Photos and videos of field work and validation for project partners and communications projects, with guidance from AWA communications team. Specific deliverables could include:
 - Two to four short-form videos, developed in Canva, about the project, highlighting aspects of field work, community perspectives of beavers, and beaver conservation spotlight. Some examples could be “a day in the life of a biologist”, “a day in the life of a beaver”, etc.
 - Documentation of fieldwork in the form of photos and videos that can be used to communicate the project to partners, funders, and the public.
- Blog posts, videos or written content that could include community relationships to beavers, community perspectives on fish habitat, and beaver ecosystems.
- Additional content, including maps, interviews, reports, and articles on TEK/TIK of beavers, which could involve archival work, mapping, toponymy and land use research, ethnobotany research, and interviews.
- If schedules and capacity align, present learnings at local culture camps.
- Outreach at events and Tribal or community gatherings.
- Written report reflecting on the internship, to be included in the final Environmental Coordinator report.

Professional Development

Through this program, an intern can expect to:

- Gain hands-on experience in field-based environmental science, particularly in wetland and peatland ecosystems.

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- Participate in fieldwork related to beaver research and restoration, including vegetation transects, fish capture, and other techniques.
- Gain experience in a variety of research techniques, including but not limited to interviews, archival work, GIS, and mapping. Intern will also practice weaving together different ways of knowing to translate knowledge between different user groups.
- Develop practical skills through working alongside scientists, policy makers, and communications teams from partner organizations.
- Build science communication skills by translating field experiences and research into accessible content for public audiences.

Gain experience with multimedia storytelling and develop skills in conservation outreach and public engagement by participating in volunteer events, partner meetings, and community programming.

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS:

- Over 18 years old and the ability to travel to field sites.
- Live or within daily commuting distance to Ninilchik.
- Self started interested in field work and cultural studies.
- Intern must be able to walk and stand for field work in uneven terrain.
- Respect for and willingness to engage with Tribal values and cultural practices.
- Interest in environmental stewardship and Traditional Ecological/Indigenous Knowledge.
- Comfort in outreach and talking to new people.

SUPERVISION:

- Intern will be managed by AWA's Communications Director up to 5-10 hours per week, including video and phone calls to discuss projects and progress, as well as outlining, editing, and feedback sessions. Interns will have a 1-hour 1:1 each week with AWA staff. Note, AWA Communications Director will be working remotely from Prince William Sound and will only be available for video and phone meetings, not in-person support.
- Intern can also expect to receive support direction and management from the Executive Director and the Social Media and Communications Manager of AWA.
- During field days, intern will be managed by Syverine Bentz at KBNERR.

INDIAN PREFERENCE:

Indian Preference- In filling this position by initial appointment, promotion, transfer, reassignment, reinstatement, or any other personnel action, we are required by law, Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act to give absolute preference in selection to candidates who are eligible for Indian Preference. For consideration under Indian Preference, proof is required.

OTHER:

This position, as with all NTC positions, is subject to and under the direct authority of the NTC Policies and Procedures. The NTC is an alcohol and drug free workplace. As with all NTC positions, employment is subject to the availability of funds.

APPLICATIONS:

Applications are available at the Ninilchik Traditional Council Administration office building located across from the General Store in Ninilchik, 15910 Sterling Hwy., Ninilchik, AK 99639.

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