

Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch Internship Position Summer Field Season 2015

Position Opening: May 20 - October 1, 2015

Accepting applications March 1st, 2015. Position to be filled by April 15th, 2015.

Clark Fork Coalition, a non-profit, member-supported river conservation group based in Missoula, Montana (www.clarkfork.org)

Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch Intern

Full-time: 40 hours/week

Salary: \$1,200/month, plus housing and utilities

JOB SUMMARY: The Ranch Intern will work on the 2,300-acre Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch, in Montana's Deer Lodge Valley, assisting with all aspects of running a conservation-minded cattle ranch and conducting outreach related to the Superfund Cleanup underway of the Clark Fork River.

Specific Duties & Responsibilities

- Help prepare and execute the ranch's summer grazing plan by building temporary electric fence, monitoring livestock and range condition, and moving cattle.
- Assist with farming operations—specifically irrigation and haying.
- Build and maintain permanent fence.
- Monitor and herd cattle to improve range and riparian conditions on the ranch's private and leased pasture as well as the Forest Service grazing allotment.
- Basic care of ranch horses and cattle.
- Participate in volunteer workdays.
- Work closely with neighbors and other ranchers in the Deer Lodge Valley.
- Assist CFC staff on high-priority projects and events requiring "all hands on deck."

Desired Qualifications:

- Background in environmental science, range management, sustainable agriculture, or other related field.
- Background in animal husbandry – livestock handling.
- Openness to new ideas and non-traditional forms of ranching.
- Strong communication skills, outgoing and positive personality.
- Ability to safely ride horseback through rough terrain.
- Ability to think independently and solve problems – self-motivated.
- Ability to organize and complete projects.
- Access to a vehicle and clean driving record.
- Access to a computer.
- Eagerness to learn.

- Common Sense.
- Gumption.

Desired Work-Related Skills & Abilities

- Ability to safely operate an ATV.
- Ability to hike several miles in a day.
- Ability to lift at least 50 pounds.
- Willing and confident to work alone with minimal instruction.
- Willingness to work long hours and do rigorous physical work.
- Willingness to live in a rural area with limited services.

EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGH THIS POSITION

- Grazing management of upland and riparian areas.
- Understanding of the Superfund Cleanup process.
- Use of cattle as a tool to enhance range conditions and wildlife habitat.
- Horsemanship and livestock handling.
- Soil moisture monitoring.
- Use of temporary electric fence and other innovative ranching techniques.
- Involvement with collaborative, landscape-scale partnerships.
- Firsthand understanding of traditional and alternative agricultural practices.
- Basic maintenance of ranch facilities – specifically fencing and stock water tanks.
- The ability to operate haying equipment.

ABOUT THE CLARK FORK COALITION (www.clarkfork.org):

Founded in 1985, the Coalition is a nonprofit river conservation group, based in Missoula, Montana. We are dedicated to protecting and restoring the Clark Fork River basin, a 22,000 square-mile area draining the waterways of western Montana and northern Idaho. Our work is conducted by a staff of eight, and our methods are science-based and results-oriented, with an emphasis on public education through energetic outreach at the community level.

ABOUT THE DRY COTTONWOOD CREEK RANCH:

In June 2005, with the help of two conservation partners, the Coalition purchased a 2,300-acre ranch in the heart of the Deer Lodge valley's Superfund site. It's one of the largest and most polluted ranches in the valley. As of June 2014 the ranch has begun the process of going through the most ambitious cleanup possible. By augmenting the cleanup with agricultural practices that complement the EPA's remediation work, we are offering the Dry Cottonwood Creek Ranch as a learning site for exploring first-hand the challenges and opportunities that cleanup will bring to the valley's ranchers.

To learn more visit www.clarkfork.org

TO APPLY: Please email a resume, cover letter, and 3 references to maggie@clarkfork.org by March 25th, 2015

