

# CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES – SPRING 2009

## Natural Resource Conservation & Management Program

### Western Carolina University



**What are they?** Paid internships to support students who participate in research projects or stewardship activities related to natural resource conservation and management. Conservation interns are paid \$7/hour, with some additional support available for equipment, supplies, and travel.

**What types of projects qualify?** A wide variety of projects qualify for Conservation Internships. Typically they are projects that will be completed in a few months or less. In some cases they may be completed in 1 day or weekend. They can range from spending a Saturday removing invasive-exotic plants from a property, to spending several weeks GPS'ing road and trail networks, to conducting a semester long research project. The key characteristics are, (1) the project must be focused, (2) it must have an NRM faculty sponsor, (3) it is not a required class activity, and (4) there must be a defined end-product that will be completed before full payment is received.

#### **Current projects that may need CI's (not a complete list):**

- Tracking timber rattlesnake movements and den use
- Using remote sensing to develop forest cover and land use maps
- Evaluating mechanical and chemical methods of crop tree release in young coppice stands
- Studying the effects of deer and turkey populations on forest regeneration
- Evaluating the use of prescribed fire to improve wildlife habitat
- Designing and implementing plans to improve wildlife habitat on family farms

**How do I apply?** Work with an NRM faculty member to develop a proposal that includes (1) the specific activities you will perform, and when, (2) a complete budget, (3) a description of the final product that you will deliver, and (4) the name and signature of the faculty sponsor. NRCM faculty will review proposals as they are submitted and will make awards based on the availability of funds.

**Questions?** Talk to any NRCM faculty member.