Assignment Description Form

Organization/Agency: _________________________________ Date: 10/6/16
Supervisor/Sponsor: ___________________________ Supervisor/Sponsor title: graduate student
Address: __________________________________________ Email: sskikne@ucsc.edu
Phone: __________________________ Fax: ________________ Website: ______________________________

# of interns needed/Hours worked per intern: Needed for quarters: Options (choose one)
1 or 2/ 5 units ______ x_Fall x_Winter __Remove your listing by ____________
x_Spring __Summer x_Or keep on file for one year

Describe the internship assignment: Brief statement about the agency; role of the intern and specific objectives of the projects assigned to the intern; tasks to be performed.

Compensation: $12/hour
Location: on campus, with possibility for work from home.

I am conducting a study to assess plant species range shifts over the last 35 years in the Deep Canyon Transect in Riverside County, CA. Climate has changed rapidly over this time period in the area, and the elevational gradient represents a cross-section of southern California ecosystems, making it an ideal site to study climate-induced elevational range shifts. Photos along the gradient were taken in 1978-82 by staff at the Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Research Center, and I have re-located and re-photographed these sites.

I am looking for a research assistant to help align and then identify and measure individual plants from paired historic-modern photographs.

This data will be used to quantify recruitment, growth, and mortality across the elevation gradient. The responses of perennial desert species to climate change are critical to understand because of these species’ important function in structuring desert landscapes and communities. As climate change advances, deeper understanding of these dynamics is needed to guide conservation choices.

I am seeking a research assistant to help align and extract data from these paired historic-modern photos. Specific duties include:
- Aligning historic and modern photos in Photoshop
- Identifying species in photos and extracting data on individual recruitment, growth and mortality in ArcGIS.
- Keeping files and data sheets organized and following naming structures.
- Learning and following instructions on specific methods
- In-person check-ins as needed (at least weekly)

To apply for this position, please send a cover letter and resume to sskikne@ucsc.edu.

Which binders should we place your listing in? ___Environmental Education ___Natural History ___Policy and Planning
x_Conservation Biology ___Waste Mgmt/Toxics/Energy ___Environmental Justice ___Agroecology. Other? _______

Prerequisites: Outline the skills and background information necessary to participate in this internship.
Required
- Experience collecting data as part of rigorous scientific or academic research
- Extreme attention to detail, focus, and ability to follow instructions
- Received or anticipated bachelor’s degree in Biology, Environmental Studies, Earth Systems, Ecology, or related field.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills

Desired/Preferred
- Experience in ArcGIS and Photoshop
- Desire to contribute to and learn more about the response of arid ecological communities to climate change
- Work-study preferred but not required.