

Pacific Biodiversity Institute

*Conserving our rich biological heritage with science
and compassion for people and nature*



2002 -2003 Internship Program Report

We would like to share with you a brief description about the success of this past year's Internship Program. It has been an exciting year at the Pacific Biodiversity Institute, with interns from around the world working on projects both locally and in other parts of the country and the world.

2002 - 2003 Interns

- **Emily Reinecke** - Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina
- **Rebecca Wahl** - Lewis and Clark College, Portland, Oregon
- **Lizz Wandag** - Palawan Island, Philippines
- **Dawn Lemke** - Massey University, New Zealand
- **Hans Smith IV** - University of Washington, Seattle, Washington
- **Heather Evans** - University of New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana
- **Mona Johnston** - Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado
- **Jill Smith** - Twisp, Washington
- **Orfa Rodriguez** - Quito, Ecuador



We had a total of nine interns work with us this last year, from all over the U.S. and the world. We are pleased with the global distribution of our interns, as we believe there is a significant need to equip people in foreign nations with the tools and skills necessary to do meaningful conservation work in their home countries. As our list of interns expands in the coming years, we know that the ability of our global culture to address environmental issues will become stronger.

As always, the success of our Internship Program is best described by the interns themselves. Here are some of the things our interns had to say about their experiences at PBI:



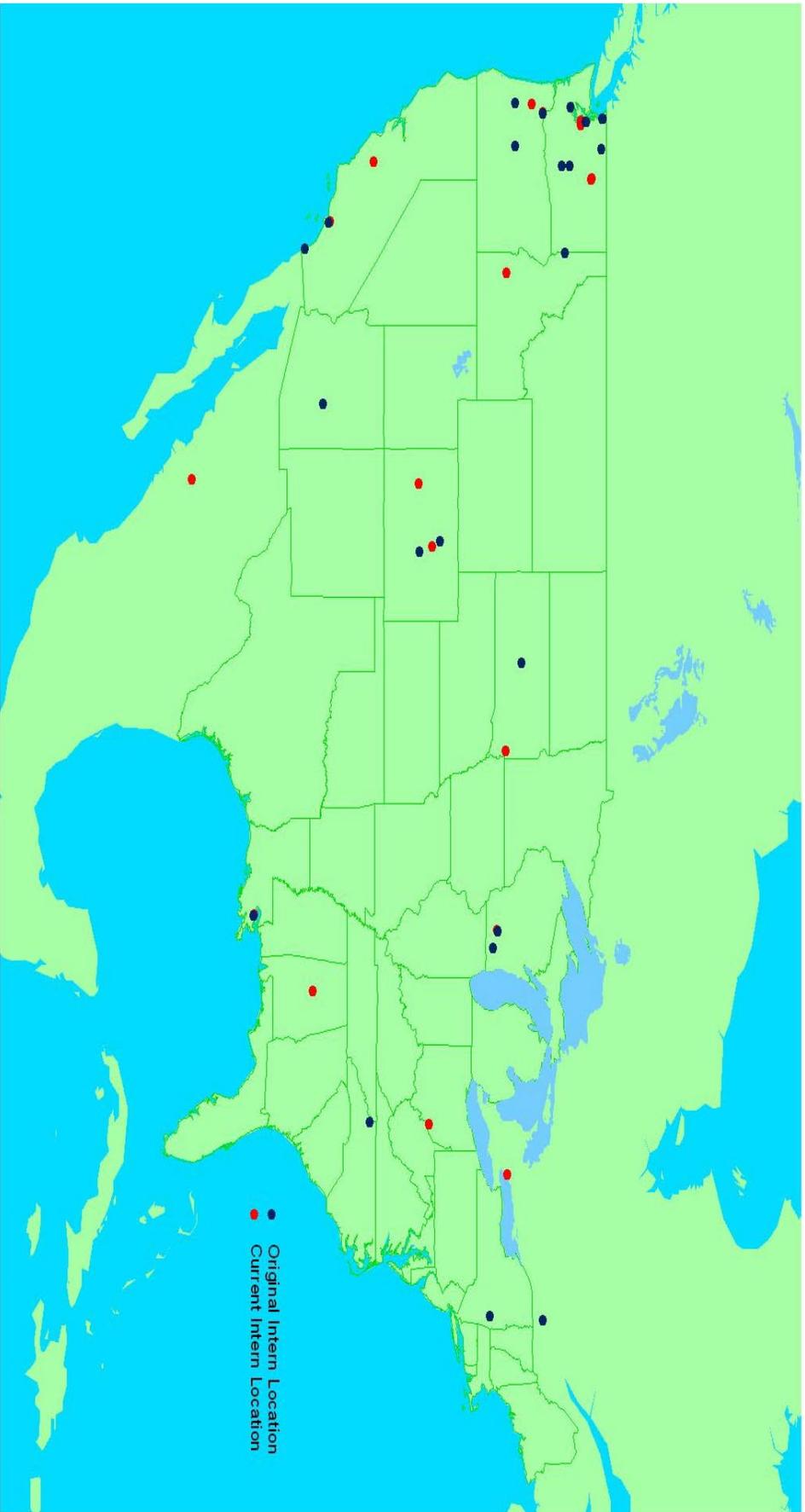
Orfa Rodriguez, Quito, Ecuador, MS in Management and Conservation of Biodiversity, CATIE, Costa Rica

“Currently, there is a challenge to provide new conservation techniques and applications to the global biodiversity crisis, especially in nations where biodiversity is highest, like Ecuador. PBI is providing me the opportunity to learn about GIS applications to natural resource conservation and management in my country. I hope that my time with PBI will provide me with the tools to contribute to the conservation of biodiversity in Ecuador.”

Since the Pacific Biodiversity Institute's Internship Program began in 1998, we have had 30 interns from 12 states within the United States, and 6 countries around the world.



Locations around the world where Pacific Biodiversity Institute interns have come from, and where they are now.



Locations around the conterminous United States where Pacific Biodiversity Institute interns have come from, and where they are now.

Mona Johnson, Senior in Biology Program at Colorado College-

“In addition to learning a tremendous amount about ecology and conservation, I was also able to sharpen my skills in ArcView, ArcGIS, and other important analysis programs. Small organizations, such as this one, give interns the opportunities to really learn and be a part of projects and I have been very grateful for that opportunity.”



Hans Smith, BS in Conservation of Wildland Resources from the UW’s College of Forest Resources-

“I can’t think of a better environment for doing an internship. I was steadily challenged to learn, problem solve, and express my knowledge about issues important to the conservation community and to me personally. I am looking forward to putting the skills I acquired at PBI towards meaningful conservation work.”

Heather Evans, Obtaining an MS in Geography from the University of New Orleans, LA-

“I benefited tremendously from my summer internship with PBI. My GIS skills improved considerably and I will now be able to complete my graduate thesis with greater skill and accuracy. I also got a look at the conservation planning process that will benefit me enormously in my career.”



Recent projects involving interns

-Pacific Biodiversity Institute- Shrub-steppe Mapping in the Methow Valley Watershed

*The Natural Communities and
Ecological Condition
of the
Sonoran Desert National Monument
and Adjacent Areas*



Pacific Biodiversity Institute

**Demographics of Selected Exotic Plants
In the Chewuch Watershed,
Methow Valley, Washington – A Status Report**



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By Pacific Biodiversity Institute
www.pacificbio.org

Much of the success of the Pacific Biodiversity Institute's projects this year can be attributed to the Internship Program. Interns spent a significant amount of their time working on projects like the Sonoran Desert ecological condition assessment, the Chewuch Watershed exotic plants study, and vegetation mapping for the Methow Conservation Coalition.

The Sonoran Desert project resulted in a hefty 500-hundred page natural community condition assessment report provided to the Nature Conservancy of Arizona and the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona. This report now provides objective, science based information about the Sonoran Desert's natural communities to the land managers of the new Sonoran Desert National Monument and surrounding areas. Intern assistance both in the field in Arizona and in our GIS lab in Washington was significant over the course of this project

Vegetation mapping for the Methow Valley Conservation Coalition began this year, and has been well received by conservation and resource management groups in the valley. So far, analyses conducted by interns have illuminated some of the deficiencies of the currently available vegetation maps that exist for the Methow Valley. Momentum is building to conduct collaborative field work and fine scale mapping exercises across the Methow Valley by Conservation Coalition members, a process that will be led by the Pacific Biodiversity Institute and involve intern support.

The Chewuch watershed weeds inventory has culminated in a recently released status report describing the observed demographic trends of selected exotic species over a period of multiple years. Some significant trends in the reduction of weed populations have been observed and noted in this year's status report. We are excited about the effectiveness of biological controls that have attacked diffuse knapweed. Fieldwork and data analysis done by interns have been very valuable to this continuing project.



Other 2002 -2003 Projects

- Started - Conservation Planning and Landscape Analysis of Important Bird Areas in Ecuador
- Continued - Wilderness and Nature Study Trips
- Continued - Landscape Analysis of 2000-2003 Wildfires and Relationships to Ecosystem Health
- Completed - Analysis of Rate of Forest Cutting on Private and State Lands – Washington Forest Law Center
- Completed - Wenatchee Basin Habitat Conservation Priorities

Looking Forward

The Pacific Biodiversity Institute looks forward to another great year for the Internship Program. Applications for the program are numerous, and the applicants diverse. Some applicants currently under consideration are from as far away as India and Columbia, while others are Americans with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

New projects are constantly being developed at Pacific Biodiversity Institute. At this time, we are committed to begin producing habitat quality and land cover maps and reports concerning the viability of the spring Chinook ESU for the Upper Columbia Basin. We are building ties and fostering possible work relationships with conservation groups in Ecuador through our intern Orfa Rodriguez. We have proposed future work plans to the Nature Conservancy and BLM in Arizona for further scientific studies to aid conservation efforts in the Sonoran Desert.

A plethora of other projects are already underway. We are currently completing an analysis of the relationships between roads and logging activities with regards to wildfires that have burned across the Western U.S. Updating and enhancing our Endangered Species Information Network with the best available information on wildlife species on the brink of extinction is another project of ongoing focus. These, as well as many other projects await the diverse list of candidates for our Internship Program.

Hands on learning is irreplaceable in adequately training young people to successfully promote environmental issues. We are enthusiastic that we have the chance to involve many creative and talented people in conservation work through our Internship Program.

