

# Conservation Science Internships at *Pacific Biodiversity Institute*



Pacific Biodiversity Institute interns have the unique opportunity to learn advanced conservation science and resource management skills in dramatic and diverse mountain and ocean environments. They learn hands-on conservation science, GIS mapping, wildlife research, ecology, botany, communication skills, public outreach and more. They are immersed in current PBI projects ranging from writing wildlife management plans to research on the harbor porpoise, the ponderosa pine ecosystem and on the wildlands and biodiversity of Washington State and South America.

**Hans Smith, 2003 Intern:** (photo above in 2014)

***“The PBI internship program is an ideal stepping-stone towards building a career in conservation science and natural resource management. I continue to put many of the tools and knowledge gained from my internship to use every day in my work doing endangered species habitat restoration. This is definitely one of PBI’s most important programs that leaves a lasting environmental legacy.”***

Hans now works as a habitat biologist for the Yakama Tribe doing innovative salmon habitat restoration; he currently serves on the PBI Board of Directors.

The short-term impact of PBI’s conservation science internship program is a meaningful and rich internship experience for young conservation scientists, providing them with the skills and real-life training for doing significant conservation work. In addition, PBI benefits from the curiosity, enthusiasm, and current knowledge that interns bring to their work. However, the long-term impact of the internship program goes far beyond this. PBI intern alumni are engaged in exceptional ways around the world doing great work that is helping to heal and protect the planet and strengthen local communities. Future scientific and public communities benefit as interns advance in their fields and employ and share the experience they have gained working on PBI projects.





## PBI Internship Program Sphere of Influence

**Here are a few of the organizations now benefiting from PBI intern expertise:**

US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)  
 British Antarctic Survey  
 Virginia Dept. of Environmental Quality  
 Alabama A&M University  
 Environmental Science Associates  
 Plumas County Office of Education  
 PRADAN (an NGO in India devoted to helping poor farmers)

SWCA Environmental Consultants  
 The Nature Conservancy  
 University of Montana – Missoula  
 University of Northern Iowa  
 University of Sheffield  
 US Forest Service  
 Western Washington University  
 Yakama Tribal Fisheries

## Intern Stories

**Kirsten Harma** (2000 intern) learned about alien plants, endangered species, fire ecology and conservation mapping while at PBI. After completing her BS degree at Western WA University, she returned to PBI to work for over a year as a GIS analyst. She later spent two years in Costa Rica with Asociacion ANAI, monitoring the biodiversity of tropical river systems. She completed her MS at the University of British Columbia in freshwater conservation, and is now the watershed coordinator for the Chehalis Basin Partnership, helping to coordinate salmon recovery in this area. In 2012, Kirsten joined a month-long PBI biodiversity expedition in South America.



**Heather Evans Sander** (2003 intern) learned about conservation biology and GIS mapping at PBI after completing her MS in geography at University of New Orleans. After her internship with PBI, she went on to finish a PhD in conservation biology at the University of Minnesota. Heather is now an assistant professor at the University of Iowa, researching urban biodiversity and the benefits of urban water bodies, greenspace and urban forests.

**Diane Hackenburg** (2008 intern) trained in ecology, botany and GIS mapping while working on PBI ecological assessments in Washington state parks. Since then, she has worked as a management fellow at the Shalom Community Center; a biological technician at the U.S. Geological Survey; a project manager at the Blue Ridge Land Conservancy; at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; and is now the communications manager for the Triangle Land Conservancy, Durham,

