

Summer 2024 Internships Available

San Juan Citizens Alliance supports mentoring and providing experiential education for the next generation of conservation advocates. We offer compensated real-world experience to students considering a career in environmental advocacy, through eight-week internships focusing on several of our core program areas each summer.

Interns could earn academic credit pending approval from their school's program requirements based on an anticipated 40 hour/week commitment. In person internships are preferred, but remote work will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

SJCA is seeking applications for the following 2024 summer internships:

Four Corners Energy Transition and Sustainable Development

Northwest New Mexico and the larger Four Corners region is undertaking a generational transition from burning fossil fuels to solar energy. One coal plant retired in 2022 and is being demolished, with several large solar projects hundreds of megawatts in size under construction. Farmington, New Mexico and surrounding areas are grappling with what a sustainable future looks like, including how to incorporate non-consumptive businesses with or in contrast to a continued desire by traditional economic development entities for continued reliance on fossil fuel extraction. An intern will assist SJCA staff and members in the region to compile and evaluate available information and proposals for economic transition, and help craft analysis and recommendations for sustainable economic development.

Forest Resilience and Restoration Legal Analysis

Southwest Colorado's forests are host to several community-based collaborative efforts that tier off of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program enacted by Congress in 2009. The legislation requires that projects contribute toward the restoration of the structure and composition of old growth stands according to the pre-fire suppression old growth conditions characteristic of the forest type. More recently, some collaboratives are emphasizing forest resilience to insect outbreaks and climate change-induced changes in fire regimes over forest restoration objectives. SJCA's program staff welcomes assistance in an analysis of the legal standards and requirements associated with resilience and restoration efforts, and comparing and contrasting the similarities and differences between those approaches, if any.

Village at Wolf Creek Development Permitting Legal Analysis

A massive real estate development for up to 8,000 people is proposed atop Wolf Creek Pass in the midst of the Rio Grande National Forest. The development has been pending since 1986, and entails road construction across the national forest to provide access for commercial and residential development. Development on this scale would entail permitting by numerous local, state and federal entities, such as the Colorado Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, Army Corps of Engineers, local county governments, and others. An intern would assist SJCA's program staff in identifying the litany of required permits, documenting public engagement opportunities and suggesting relevant regulatory strategies.

Application and Qualifications

Interested applications should provide a cover letter, relevant academic or professional experience, and resume. Applicants with education or experience in environmental, energy, natural resources, public lands or a related field are strongly preferred. Eligible legal internship applicants should have completed their first year of law school and are entering their 2L or 3L year. SJCA is committed to a diversity and equity within its workforce.

Please apply with an email to info@sanjuancitizens.org with Internship in the subject line. Feel free to reach out and contact SJCA staff with questions in advance of applying.