

Graham County 2016 Extern Proposal: “Water Harvesting, Low Water Use Landscaping and Local Food Production, “Find it/Use It” in Graham County”

Building on the success of the last several years of externships and other programs, Graham County Cooperative Extension, University of Arizona is looking to hire two externs that would locate, photograph, document, and develop an interactive Google Map displaying examples of low water use landscape, active and passive water harvesting, pollinator gardening, local and controlled environment food production, and other innovative efforts in sustainable systems in Graham County. This map once completed, would be made available to the public on the Graham County Extension website and other partner sites for citizens of Graham County to easily locate examples and experience different sustainable systems.

The externs will work under the direction of the County Extension Director and in collaboration with partners: City of Safford, Our Neighbor’s Farm and Pantry Managers, EAC, Discovery Park Campus, Gila Watershed Partnership Native Plant Nursery, Graham County Chamber of Commerce, Graham County Fair Grounds, Mt. Graham Regional Hospital, and other entities identified through the mapping exercise.

The externs are required to be University of Arizona registered students. The funding for this program comes from the University of Arizona student funded Green Fund and comes with that qualification. Qualified externs will need the following skillsets: basic IT/GIS/GPS knowledge, mapping, photography, plant identification, and writing skills. The extern need to be available for 10-12 weeks. The externs will be hired at minimum wage and work a 35 hour per week for a total of 400 hours. Recruitment starts in early spring and it is hoped to have the externs selected by April, so they could start as soon as school is out. Preference will be given to local candidates for the externships. Housing for externs from outside Graham County may be an issue, but we help in finding low cost housing if externs are hired from outside Graham County

The hope is to hire one person with the IT/GIS/GPS skills and another with the plant and resource skills. They will work together to complete the project. At times they will have direct supervision, but at other times they will be required to work independently on the project with minimal supervision. It is extremely important that externs are self-motivated, have some basic knowledge of the kind of work involved with the project, and have personal interest in this project and the community.

Project description and time line

Time	Job	Outcome
Week 1	County Orientation, introduction, project planning and housing placement	Learn about the community, project and expectations
Weeks 2-3	Site identification	Photograph and GPS Site
Weeks 4-7	Site work	Complete maintenance, upgrade etc. at sites.
Week 8-10	Build google base interactive map of demonstration sites	Complete content of interactive map
Week 10	Upload map to site	Have Google Map live on the Graham County Cooperative Extension Web site.