Project Approval Guidelines for USDA Water Resources Internships

1. Project Description
   • Is this Project clearly defined? If not, what is missing?
   • What primary USDA Discipline (Water Science/Water Resources [Water Quality, Watershed Management], Environmental Sciences/Management, Conservation, Renewable Energy, and Natural Resources, Related Biological Sciences, Plant Sciences and Horticulture, Agricultural/Biological Engineering, Agricultural Social Science, or Soil Science) does the Project address?
   • Will the Project produce valuable information and for whom?
   • What is the merit of the Project on a scale from 1 (low) to 5 (high)?

2. Describe the specific tasks the intern will perform: (maximum of ten tasks; each task should be no longer than 50 words)
   • Will the tasks as written result in completion of the Project?
   • Are the tasks appropriate for up to 360 hours of undergraduate/300 hours of graduate work?
   • Are there missing, repetitive or redundant steps?

3. Describe the skills and experience the intern will gain: (100 word maximum)
   • Does it appear the intern will gain new skills and knowledge?
   • Will this Project be valuable experience for a graduate seeking a job? If so why?
   • Would this Project be valuable experience for a graduate seeking a career in the USDA’s workforce that protect and enhance the natural resource base and environment?

4. Describe the benefit of the Project to the management of the named watershed(s) or service area(s): (100 word maximum)
   • Is the benefit claimed legitimate?
   • Are there other benefits?
   • Does the Project meet the Project Criteria on the Fact Sheet?

5. Identify stakeholders in the named watershed(s) or service area(s) that the intern will contact in the course of the project:
   • Are the appropriate stakeholders identified? Are others missing?

6. Describe the product the Project will deliver to the WRPI upon completion for inclusion in the WRPI’s information technology (IT) system that shares knowledge gained about the watershed over the Internet.
   • Is this product clearly defined?
   • If not, what is the product?