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IDS 368 Internship in Conservation Leadership
Internship Reflection

The internship I participated in these past 5 weeks at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) has been very exciting and an overall positive experience. I enjoyed my time on the refuge and I appreciate the opportunity given to me and my fellow interns to get a peek into the world of refuge management and conservation leadership. I loved getting to converse with actual USFWS staff and get to tag along with them on bird/impoundment surveys and visit turtle nests and learn the proper procedure on how to monitor and protect them. Working on the refuge site helped me prepare my individual report as well as I believe develop my appreciation for the work the USFWS staff do on a daily basis. I learned more about Back Bay's specific operations as well as the overall operations of wildlife refuges in the U.S.A. Travelling through the refuge on surveys or to go to a turtle nest were some of my favorite activities to do on the refuge because on the journey to my destination I usually got a lot of insight into what we'd be doing from the supervisor and the workings of the refuge in conjunction with False Cape State Park. The internship with USFWS deepened my resolve to seek a career with the service in the future as I became more acquainted with the service and its purpose. Some improvements to the structure of the internships I would recommend would be to have the orientation for the internship during the first week of the internship so the interns begin working on their reports as soon as possible. I

would also recommend a reevaluation of the necessity of the interns to obtain I.D. cards due to the hurdles we faced in procuring them and getting them to work ultimately hindered us as it took valuable time.