



# Coastal Prairie GLC Internship White Paper

Texas Grazing Land Coalition (TXGLC) is organized to support sound grazing land stewardship and assist owners and managers of private grazing lands. Expert technical assistance is available to implement, on a voluntary basis, technologies for conservation management of the private grazing lands and other natural renewable resources of Texas. TXGLC has ten regional coalitions, each serving unique diverse areas of Texas. Coastal Prairie Coalition covers 27 counties on the Gulf Coast of Texas and is home to many unique landscapes and diverse ranching enterprises. We work to identify the challenges in this unique environment and determine innovative and creative

ways to get more conservation and sound stewardship on our grazing lands. This producer driven model has proven very effective with educational efforts often focused on peer to peer sharing and learning.

In 2019 Coastal Prairie GLC formed an internship program to develop future ranch managers. Our goal is simple, expose students who are on track to become future ranch managers to the ranching businesses on the Gulf Coast of Texas. Each year we select 3-4 ranch management students to live and work with a viable, large-scale cattle operation with one of our cooperating GLC Ranches. As an intern they are expected to work a full day learning the ins and outs of the ranch and be especially exposed to the operations and business aspects of running a ranch. Additionally, each week we offer an afternoon seminar to expose our interns to land management related topics. Topics in the past have included range and quail management, herd health, brush management, intensive grazing, ranch business lending, marketing, and mineral resource with surface use considerations. Over the course of the summer, they also work on a ranch management plan and budget on a mock ranch that is representative of the area.

Prior ranch experience is required for this program. Each partnering ranch covers a few thousand acres with large cattle herds. Interns are expected to immediately contribute to the operation while gaining managerial experience in the process. Students who are interested in becoming a future ranch manager, but lack previous experience are encouraged to gain a summer of experience on a local operation first. We would then encourage them to apply in the future.

Below are examples of previous work experiences that these highly qualified applicants possess. These are merely examples and not all are necessarily required.

1. Cattle feeding and rotational grazing.
2. Low stress livestock handling and knowledge of Beef Quality Assurance protocols.
3. Knowledge of herd health protocols and cattle processing.
4. The importance of livestock care during stressful periods such as transportation.
5. Can independently operate tractors and farm equipment.
6. Build fence, livestock pens, and fix damaged pipeline and water systems.
7. Experience in pasture management and spraying brush.

Our priority for selecting applicants are as follows.

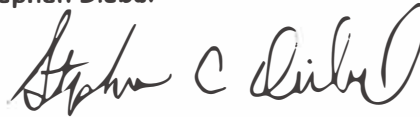
1. Graduate students enrolled in a ranch management or natural resources degree plan with a serious desire to enter ranch management upon graduation.
2. Students enrolled in bachelors' program and will enter a ranch management program upon completion.
3. Students enrolled in an agricultural degree plan with previous ranch experience that is interested in operating a ranch after graduation.

We ask that each applicant submit a one-page resume by March 1<sup>st</sup>. This may be emailed to [coastalprairieglc@gmail.com](mailto:coastalprairieglc@gmail.com). A cover letter with letter of recommendation will also be accepted but not required.

Our top applicants will be required to participate in a phone interview. The purpose of this interview is to determine the best applicants and determine which host ranch is the best fit. They will be expected to discuss their previous experiences and state what they seek to gain from the program.

Thank you for your help in finding qualified applicants for this unique opportunity. We hope to work with you in the future to continue our legacy of land stewardship in Texas.

Stephen Diebel



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