

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency Intern Testimonials

Working at TRPA has exposed me to planning problems unique to resort mountain towns and has provided an example of the progress that holistic and collaborative planning produces. The job was always interesting as I had several projects to work on at once. Throughout my internship, I had the opportunity to engage in community outreach, participate in fieldwork, conduct and present research, and improve my data management and cartography skills. I'm glad to have had the opportunity to work and live in Tahoe, as it inspired me to apply for my new position as the assistant planner for the City of Sun Valley, Idaho. I hope to use the experience that I gained during my internship to plan innovatively for a sustainable future. I'm so thankful for the relationships I've developed with the transportation team and have appreciated their support and guidance. This internship has helped improve my skills as a planner, and gain confidence as I take on my future.

Maya Lewis

Transportation Intern, Summer 2019

Working as the communications intern at the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency was an incredibly rewarding experience. Through the fantastic mentorship of Sarah, I developed my writing skills and learned the process behind communicating at an environmental agency with wide-reaching authority. I also got an introduction to how different agencies, community groups, businesses, and non-profit organizations can efficiently work together to protect a natural resource such as Lake Tahoe. It was very interesting to see how TRPA uses their authority to encourage collaboration and create strong partnerships. I will be able to take this experience back home to the Chesapeake Bay watershed, where a similar level of complexity exists. This year I'll also use these lessons learned to be a better leader in the student organizations I'm involved with on campus. As a result, this internship was a transformative and informative experience for me. Plus, I loved living in South Lake Tahoe for the summer!

Emma Gregory

TRPA Communications / Environmental Improvement Program Intern, Summer 2019

As the 2018 intern for the Research and Analysis Division, I was afforded many opportunities and given a greatly varied plate of tasks that I enjoyed working on during my time with TRPA. I also had the great pleasure to assist the transportation planning team with some fun and interesting projects and spend two weeks doing fieldwork around Lake Tahoe in conjunction with both divisions' needs. This summer has been incredibly rewarding and cemented my interest in continuing with my planning career in the area. I am now transitioning into a position with Kimley-Horn, where I intend to use the knowledge, skills, and most importantly personal connections, that I was able to foster during my time at TRPA in my future endeavors.

Lindsey Costello

TRPA Research and Analysis Intern, 2018

My time as a finance intern at TRPA has been an incredible learning experience. Over the course of my internship, I was given many opportunities to develop skills and gain exposure to areas that I never would have in a classroom setting. I believe the skills and knowledge that I gained here will be tremendously helpful in future job positions. Working alongside the finance department staff gave me a unique perspective on how government agencies such as TRPA operate, both in a financial sense and otherwise. Furthermore, I felt that the finance staff and all other staff in general were very helpful and were always willing to lend a helping hand or give advice. Lastly, being a part of this organization showed me the value of government agencies like TRPA and the tangible and lasting impacts that they can have on the communities they serve.

James Osgood

TRPA Finance Intern, 2018

As a Long Range and Transportation Planning Intern at TRPA, I honed my policy analysis, data collection, and GIS skills while gaining a deep understanding of the planning process at the regional level. I felt like a valued team member from day one because I was trusted with meaningful projects to work on such as the Shoreline Plan and the Development Rights Strategic Initiative. This is not an internship where your skills are underutilized. I was given the tools and support necessary to produce deliverables for stakeholders and the Governing Board in making decisions on critical plans and policies. I was always kept on my toes with several projects going on at once and occasional field work on the lake. The team at TRPA is very supportive and welcoming, and I thank them for all they did for me last summer!

Haley Proehl

TRPA Long Range and Transportation Planning Intern, Summer 2017

My internship with the TRPA last summer taught me so many things about the world of environmental permitting. Coming from an environmental science background, I greatly appreciated being a part of the agency that keeps the integrity of Lake Tahoe's ecosystem intact. My internship responsibilities with both the Research and Analysis and Current Planning departments taught me the inner workings of the permitting process and was the perfect preparation for the permitting position I have today. Even on the first day of my internship it was apparent that the staff at TRPA care tremendously about Lake Tahoe and stand with TRPA's mission, and I'm so glad I had the chance to be a part of their team.

Jordan Pruitt

TRPA Permit Research Technician and Current Planning Intern, 2017

Working in the Transportation Department for the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency was legitimately life changing. Cliché as it may sound, working in the program allowed me to discover passions and ambitions I was not aware of prior to the internship. Specifically having the opportunity to work on a team with people from FHWA, Caltrans, CHP, the City of South Lake Tahoe, and more conducting a road safety audit was an experience that proved itself to be invaluable. This opportunity allowed me to develop great relationships with people outside of the agency alongside the incredible relationships developed with the people in the TRPA. Those people encouraged me to follow up my internship with an

independent study working with transportation planning professors at UC Berkeley analyzing and furthering research in relation to what I worked on over the course of my internship with TRPA.

Currently I am heading into a summer internship working with the Oakland Department of Transportation in their Planning and Project Department before I head into my final year of study at UC Berkeley. Thanks to TRPA, I feel more confident in finishing my educational career and heading into my professional career with a good head on my shoulders, ready to pursue a future rooted in transportation planning and design. Working to collect data in the field, research in the office, and engage with the community was all the better in a beautiful place like Lake Tahoe with a capable and altogether wonderful team encouraging and challenging me all the while. I will forever value the relationships formed with the people I worked with as well as the knowledge and experience I gained during my summer at TRPA.

Mikaela Hiatt

TRPA Transportation Intern, Summer 2017