

VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION



POSITION TITLE: Biological Science Technician

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Little White Salmon Fish Hatchery

WEBSITE: <https://www.fws.gov/gorgefish/LittleWhiteSalmonNFH/LittleWhiteSalmonIndex.cfm>

PROJECT LOCATION: 56961 SR14, Cook, WA 98605

SERVICE DATES: February 8, 2021, to December 17, 2021

POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the Columbia River Gorge National Fish Hatchery Complex has an opportunity for a Biological Science Technician to assist with all aspects of salmon production at the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery. The primary function of this facility is to collect adult salmon, spawn and rear them for release each year. The salmon are a vital resource for a tribal and recreational fishery as well as a large contribution to the commercial ocean fishery. Our purpose is to replace salmon that were lost due to diminished spawning habitat when the Bonneville Dam was built in 1938. Every job the Intern will perform is directly related to the success of this facility and its ability to provide salmon for harvest. The entire Columbia River Gorge National Fish Hatchery Complex consists of 6 facilities, and the Intern will be provided opportunities to assist each facility when assistance is requested.

The facility itself is on 400+ acres of land that needs to be maintained as it is also federal property that belongs to the citizens of the U.S. This land is entrusted to our staff to maintain and protect and utilize to perform its primary function. The Little White Salmon River runs through our property and into Drano Lake, which then runs into the Columbia River. We have property that borders all of this and needs to be maintained for use by the public.

Finally, the public also has a great interest in our job as many of them are benefiting from the salmon we produce either by directly harvesting or purchasing from commercial vendors. The recreational angler spends a lot of time and money in pursuit of salmon during the fishing season, and Native American Tribes also relies on these salmon for ceremonial and subsistence purposes. The Intern will interact with both tribal and recreational fisherman and needs to be able to communicate what we are doing and why we are doing it in a clear and understandable manner.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (TO INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO):

- Providing standard feeds to fish according to specific schedules following established protocols.
- Observing fish to monitor their behavior and appearance for signs of stress or disease.
- Operates and monitors fish culture equipment which regulates water quantity and quality.
- Cleaning and maintaining fish raceways.
- Spawning adult fish.
- Transporting/transferring eggs and fish.
- Collecting and entering data, including water quality, fish feed provided, numbers of dead fish, etc...
- Grounds maintenance to include improvement projects (use of some power tools, yard work, painting).
- Lead youth group on grounds improvement projects.
- Provide tours to school groups and public.
- Assist with organizing and improving work stations on hatchery.

Mt. Adams Institute strengthens the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development and research.

- Become familiar with other facilities in the Complex and provide assistance to those facilities when requested.
- Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps trainings and service requirements including orientation, trainings and team meetings.
- Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Wear MAI identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
- Attend mandatory virtual MAI Orientation (February 8-12) and Intern trainings (mid-term).
- Demonstrate a good work ethic -arrive at work on time, pay attention to detail when performing your duties and understand the importance of the job you are performing.
- Demonstrate enthusiasm and integrity daily in performance of duties.
- Willingness to communicate with the public.
- Ability and willingness to serve outdoors in inclement weather with possible strenuous and repetitive physical activity and ability to lift up to 50 lbs.
- Demonstrate attention to detail when collecting and recording data.
- Demonstrate a desire to promote environmental stewardship.
- Demonstrate ability to work as a team player and follow direction of staff that are trying to teach specific job skills.
- Demonstrate ability to work a varied schedule which at times may shift to working weekends with Monday and Tuesday off.
- A commitment to the goals of the Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery
- Comply with all Partner Organizations safety policies and procedures.
- Meet other requirements of a federal employee (eg. background check)
- Must have served in U.S. Armed Forces and have a DD214 with an honorable discharge.
- At least 21 years of age at beginning of service term.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving education award.
- Ability to commit to the full 45-week term of service.
- Selection, placement and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Registry, state of service and state of residence criminal history check and a national FBI check.
- Members are eligible to serve up to four terms of service and receive AmeriCorps Education awards for each term of service up to the value of two full time education awards only.
- **Must be willing to respond to COVID-19 restrictions by altering duties, working remotely from home, wearing designated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, ensure social distancing and follow all agency requirements while working and living in agency housing.**

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Experience handling fish or working with wildlife
- Basic computer skills including the use of email, internet searches, and Microsoft Office Products.
- Any combination of experience or education equivalent to 2-4 years of college.
- Any experience working on/operating small engines (trimmers, mowers, chainsaws etc.)
- Carpentry skills

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- VetsWork is an apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (V.A.) and the Department of Labor. Members with G.I. Bill benefits may be able to dual enroll as an apprentice and access

their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) of up to approximately \$2,400 per month. Actual benefits vary by individuals' qualified benefits.

- \$15,750 living allowance paid over the 10 ½ -month term of service (\$350 weekly, before taxes).
- \$6,345 education award (qualified student loans and/or education expenses)
- Loan Forbearance
- Health Care Insurance
- Child Care Reimbursement
- Professional development, trainings and networking opportunities.

HOUSING:

- Free housing is provided to interns by service site.
- The house is furnished and satellite internet will be provided free of charge. Washer and dryer also provided.
- Housing located at the Carson National Fish Hatchery about 23 miles from duty station.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Intern is responsible for travel to and from orientation and to and from duty station. Housing is ~ 30 minute drive to duty station.
- Project site is not accessible by public transportation.
- Agency/Organization vehicles are available for work-related travel.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- The hatchery is located about 1 hour east of Portland, OR and Vancouver, Wa, The hatchery is about a 15 minute drive to White Salmon, WA or Hood River, OR where there is plenty of restaurants, grocery stores or other types of conveniences. The housing is located at Carson NFH and will be about a 30 minute commute each way to the Little White Salmon NFH where the position is stationed.
- The intern will be provided with any required PPE to include protective eyewear, gloves, hearing protection and boots.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION:

MAI celebrates equity, diversity, and inclusiveness and does not discriminate against any person or group based on race, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, expression, gender identity, ability, national origin or ancestry, veteran status, social economic class, religion, professional status, pregnancy, or parents/guardians with children. MAI is committed to a diverse workplace and to supporting our Interns and staff with trainings and career development opportunities.

MAI provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation and/or alternative formats at any point in the employment process.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Email the following documents to Katie Schmidt at katie@mtadamsinstitute.org:

- Resume
- Cover Letter (One for each position applying to).
- Three Professional References (military, civilian, or academic) – Information to include: Name, Title, Relation to you, email & phone number.
- Supplemental Questions:
 - What is your motivation for applying to VetsWork?
 - What are you hoping to get out of this experience?

☐ DD 214 – (with Honorable Discharge):

- “General under honorable conditions” discharge are considered on a case-by-case basis
- Must be long form “Member 4 copy” (has 30 total boxes of information).

PROCESS:

1. MAI screens application materials, conduct pre-interviews, and recommends qualified applicants for Service Site interviews.
2. Service Sites interview candidates, conduct reference checks and recommend placement.
3. If position is offered, additional paperwork will be required.

Due to Covid-19 parts of our programming may change

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- More information at “[VetsWork Frequently Asked Questions](#)” and “[Is VetsWork Right for Me?](#)”
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macslis.org/articles/cover-letters>

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

Katie Schmidt

Recruitment Coordinator | 509-395-3465

katie@mtadamsinstitute.org | mtadamsinstitute.org

