

# **VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT**

## **AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION**



**POSITION TITLE:** Biological Assistant (Fisheries) (Two positions)

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION:** Six Rivers National Forest

**WEBSITE:** <https://www.fs.usda.gov/srnf/>

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Orleans/Ukomom Ranger District, #1 Ishi Pishi Road, P.O. Box 410, Orleans CA 95556

**SERVICE DATES:** Early May 2021 (1700-hour position)

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**POSITION SUMMARY:** In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries and the Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF), will provide a variety of opportunities and experiences to an Intern. These include but are not limited to:

- Natural resource management activities on the SRNF
- Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive fish species inventories
- Aquatic habitat and riparian assessments
- Restoration planning and implementation
- Hydrologic data collection
- Water quality and instream flow monitoring
- Wildlife species surveys
- Thinning and fuels reduction treatments
- Mapping, data management
- Volunteer recruitment and coordination
- Environmental education.

These duties will focus on high priority recovery actions in the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Salmon Recovery Plan and assist in managing fall Chinook salmon, as described in NOAA's Fisheries Management Plan for the Klamath Management Zone. The position will primarily assist the District Fish Biologist and will also assist other state, federal, tribal, local, and private partners with forest program of work priorities. This position is based in Orleans, CA but may include travel throughout the Six Rivers National Forest.

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

- Assist with surveys, restoration, and stewardship of riparian and aquatic habitats on the Six Rivers National Forest adjacent to the Salmon, Klamath, Trinity, and Mad Rivers.
- Collect and manage data primarily related to salmonid species inventories, aquatic and riparian habitat assessments, hydrologic data collection and water quality research, fisheries restoration planning and implementation as outlined in the SONCC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan, photo monitoring, and documentation.
- Plan and lead stewardship monitoring, restoration, and outreach events through our collaborative partnerships.
- Participate in SRNF outreach and education events.
- Assist in building of new partnerships and maintaining existing ones.
- Help maintain and manage fisheries field gear and equipment.
- Assist with reporting for fisheries program accomplishments.
- 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.

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- 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.
- Able to serve in a remote and rural community.
- An interest in natural resources management and desire to gain both field and office skills.
- Must be able to swim and be comfortable in moving streams. Snorkeling experience preferred.
- Ability to serve with people of various ages, interests, backgrounds, and beliefs.
- Must be self-motivated and be skilled in organization and time management.
- Should be comfortable speaking to audiences as well as in one-on-one settings with students, partners and general public.
- Comfortable serving in both a field and office setting.
- Weekend and evening hours on occasion.
- Attend mandatory virtual MAI Orientation and Intern trainings (mid-term).
- Comply with all Partner Organizations safety policies and procedures.
- Must have served in US 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, serving remotely from home, wearing designated Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks, ensure social distancing and follow all agency requirements while traveling, serving and living in agency housing.**

#### **PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Desire to learn about natural resource and fisheries management, river health, floodplain restoration, ecology, botany, and related fields.
- Previous experience and familiarity with river navigation; ability to boat, swim and snorkel a river.
- Ability to serve independently and with teams on multiple and sometime simultaneous diverse tasks.
- Excellent communication skills, including writing, speaking, and networking.
- Experience using Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint.
- Knowledge, experience, or strong desire to learn about using mapping software (GIS, Avenza, or Google Earth).

#### **BENEFITS INCLUDE:**

- VetsWork is an apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) 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.

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### HOUSING:

- \$500/month housing stipend provided by service site.
- Potential Options Available:
  - USFS government barracks (not guaranteed - availability is limited due to Covid 19 protocols)
  - A trailer / RV pad at Oak Bottom Campground on the Salmon River in Somes Bar, CA.
  - Intern seeks out housing options within the community of Orleans, Somes Bar, Weitchpec, Hoopa or Willow Creek, CA.

### TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Intern is responsible for travel to and from duty station.
- Project site is not accessible by public transportation.
- Agency/Organization vehicles will be available for some service-related travel.

### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- These videos display some of the projects that the Orleans Ranger District's Fisheries Department and their partners take on in the Klamath River Watershed.
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqqip5-bQGA>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiJALPYQG8o>

### 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.

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### APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:

Email the following documents to Katie Schmidt at [katie@mtadamsinstitute.org](mailto: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 | (503) 504 5994

[katie@mtadamsinstitute.org](mailto:katie@mtadamsinstitute.org) | [mtadamsinstitute.org](http://mtadamsinstitute.org)

