

VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION



POSITION TITLE: Field Technician (2 Positions)

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership

WEBSITE: estuarypartnership.org/

PROJECT LOCATION: 811 SW Naito Parkway, Ste 410, Portland, Oregon

SERVICE DATES: February 7, 2022 to December 16, 2022 (1700-hour position)

POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership will sponsor two VetsWork AmeriCorps interns to serve as Field Technicians. These positions will serve as part of the Science and Technical Programs team that implements components of the Estuary Partnership Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, biennial workplans, and six-year implementation strategies for technical programs, including salmon habitat restoration, monitoring and data collection. The positions support the Estuary Partnership's ecosystem, habitat, fish, water quality, toxics, invasive species, and habitat restoration activities. The Field Technicians will, 1) work with the Restoration Program Lead to assist with the large-scale restoration project at Steigerwald National Wildlife Refuge on a variety of technical field assignments, and work with restoration partners and community members; 2) work with the Principal Wetlands Ecologist and the monitoring team to assist with implementation of annual monitoring plans, aid in technical data collection; 3) work with different Science and Technical Program team members to support the implementation of on-the-ground salmon habitat restoration projects. Most work will take place in a field setting, on the river, and requires regular travel to locations throughout the Estuary Partnership study area between Bonneville Dam and the Pacific Ocean in Oregon and Washington. This position is funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the interns will have the opportunity to engage with NOAA's salmon habitat restoration activities as part of the experience.

The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership is a non-profit, a National Estuary Program, and a collection of dedicated scientists, educators, and community members who are passionate about the Columbia River. We focus on the lower 146 miles of the Columbia River, from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean, including the tidally influenced portions of tributaries in that area. The watershed includes 28 cities, nine counties, and 45 school districts within the states of Oregon and Washington.

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

- Collect field data to assess ecosystem conditions, fish use, habitat restoration feasibility, and site conditions to include; deployment and retrieval of data loggers, identify vegetation, fish collection, using GPS, and data entry.
- Support a wide variety of field work to include; restoration, monitoring, revegetation, volunteer planting, and other assignments.
- Support project management aspects of restoration construction projects.
- Write reports, provide project updates, disseminate program/project information, and make presentations on project and/or program information.
- Prepare technical reports and assist with data entry.
- Support and participate in a variety of community education and outreach programs, including volunteer plantings, outdoor science education projects, and other community relations programming.

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- Participate in staff and team meetings to discuss and advance program objectives, enhance collaboration, and identify resource needs required to complete projects.
- 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:

Service Site

- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
- Comply with all Partner Organizations safety policies and procedures.
- Regular travel throughout the lower Columbia River area to conduct field work. Occasional after hours and weekend work is required.
- Desire to promote environmental stewardship
- Demonstrates independence, motivation and resourcefulness.
- Ability and willingness to serve outdoors, with possible strenuous and repetitive physical activity in inclement weather and lift up to 40+ lbs. Navigate difficult terrain.
- Ability to collect monitoring data in a variety of conditions, ranging from cold and wet to and humid weather. Comfort working in and around water.
- Willingness to apply herbicide, operate small engine tools (chainsaw, brush cutter, etc.)
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with various populations.
- Willingness to learn how to use, deploy, recover, assist in use of, or otherwise become adept at using a variety of technical equipment in the completion of assigned duties.
- Desire to work with diverse populations and promote outdoor opportunities.
- Ability to learn and follow data collection and entry protocols.
- Skill working in a team environment, understanding roles and responsibilities of members, and providing communication and support to members of the team.

AmeriCorps

- 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.
- Attend virtual MAI Orientation (February 7-11) and Intern trainings.
- 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.
- **COVID-19 Policy - Selected applicants will be required to follow the policies at their service site including any changes that are implemented throughout the course of the program. These policies may include vaccination or regular testing mandates (federal sites), masking / social distancing mandates, remote / virtual work, altered field duties and other restrictions determined necessary to keep site staff, partners and the public safe. Accepting a position means accepting the current requirements and any updates to those requirements while you are enrolled in the program.**

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

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- Education or experience with invasive species.
- Experience with intercultural communication.
- Experience with Microsoft office products.
- Strong connection to the natural world.
- Interest or experience in natural resources and/or climate issues.
- Familiarity with GPS, GIS, ARC and/or orienteering.
- Familiarity of statistics and data analysis and interpretation.
- Strong interpersonal skills.

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.
- \$16,875 living allowance paid over the 10 ½ -month term of service (\$375 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:

- A \$500/month housing stipend provided.
- The Estuary Partnership is located in downtown Portland, Oregon but most of the field work is implemented throughout the Lower Columbia region. Housing in Portland can be expensive and hard to find, but many outlying areas on both the Oregon and Washington sides of the river offer more opportunities.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- If no organizational vehicle is available, mileage reimbursement will be provided for personal vehicle use.
- The office is accessible by public transportation, but field sites are not.
- Intern is responsible for travel to and from orientation and to and from duty station.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Weather in the region is typically hot and dry in the summer - with the further eastern portions of the area seeing the hottest weather, winters can be quite wet and cold, snow is unusual along the river, with the exception of the eastern end of the study area.
- The region offers a multitude of recreational amenities including easy access to the Cascades an hour to the east for mountain sports, the Pacific Coast an hour to the west, many area rivers for a very active water sports scene, and abundant hiking, camping, fishing and other outdoor activities.

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, conducts 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](#)”
- 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 | mtadamsinstitute.org

