

# VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT



## AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION

**POSITION TITLE:** Salmon Recovery Specialist

**PARTNER ORGANIZATION:** National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries

**WEBSITE:** [fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/habitat-conservation](https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/habitat-conservation)

**PROJECT LOCATION:** NOAA Restoration Center, 1201 NE Lloyd Blvd., Suite 1100, Portland, OR 97232

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

**POSITION SUMMARY:** In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), NOAA will sponsor a VetsWork AmeriCorps Intern to serve as Salmon Recovery Specialist. The position will serve with NOAA Fisheries staff to support the recovery of Upper Willamette River Chinook salmon and steelhead listed as *Threatened* under the Endangered Species Act. Based in Portland, Oregon, this position will serve closely with two different NOAA programs that focus on habitat and endangered species recovery: The Restoration Center and the West Coast Region's Willamette Branch. The position will involve geospatial analysis, partner engagement, outreach, and communications projects. Through this position, the Willamette Basin Salmon Recovery Specialist will have the opportunity to learn about the science and policy of habitat restoration and salmon recovery; network and collaborate with agency, tribal, and nonprofit partners; build a portfolio of outreach and communications products, and advance their GIS skills. The position will be approximately 90% office based, with occasional travel or fieldwork opportunities (up to 10%). Due to COVID-19 health concerns, the position may require remote service. In office and fieldwork will be required if and when the agency deems it safe to proceed with these activities.

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

- Geospatial Analysis: Collect, synthesize, analyze, and present geographic data to help prioritize actions and locations for salmon and steelhead habitat restoration.
- Outreach Product Development: Create outreach materials for the public (presentations, posters, web stories, etc.) to provide updated information on the status of salmon and steelhead and their habitats in the Willamette to diverse audiences.
- Web Development: Help create new web pages to provide information to the public and target audiences about restoration and the Portland Harbor Superfund Site, including monitoring results, maps, photos, and permitting information.
- Partner Engagement: Communicate with partners (counties, Tribes, state, towns, non-profit, federal, etc.) to understand overlaps in priorities, educate them about NOAA's resources, and improve collaboration towards Willamette salmonid recovery.
- Field Work: Build skills in field-based stream habitat assessment methods by participating in stream surveys with local partner, Johnson Creek Watershed Council
- Complete other tasks as necessary to support habitat restoration, environmental stewardship, and recovery of NMFS trust resources.
- 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.

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

## **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.
- Occasional travel throughout the Willamette River Basin to conduct fieldwork.
- Occasional after hours and weekend work may be 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 navigate difficult terrain.
- Ability to collect monitoring data in a variety of conditions, ranging from cold and wet to hot and humid weather. Comfortable working in and around water.
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with a wide spectrum of audiences.
- 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.
- 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:**

- Education or experience with geographic information systems (GIS) and spatial data analysis.
- Ability to work on teams with diverse perspectives, values, and identities, and communicate to a diverse range of people.
- Strong writing, verbal, and analytical skills.
- Interest or experience in Endangered Species Act, natural resources, fisheries, and/or climate issues
- Strong interpersonal skills.
- Bachelor's degree in relevant field.

**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.
- Training in GIS, salmon habitat restoration, and other fisheries science topics
- Access to internal educational presentations
- Networking opportunities with professionals across NOAA and partner organizations

**HOUSING:**

- A \$500/month housing stipend provided by service site.
- 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:**

- The office is accessible by public transportation, but field sites are not.
- A personal vehicle may be required to conduct fieldwork. In most cases, the intern can ride with a NOAA employee. In the event a personal vehicle is used, the intern will be reimbursed for mileage. Proof of a valid drivers' license and insurance will be required.
- Intern is responsible for travel 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.
- The NMFS office is located in Portland, Oregon but occasional fieldwork will be implemented elsewhere in the Lower Columbia region.

**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](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](#)”
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macslit.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)

