

VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION



POSITION TITLE: Biological Science Technician

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery

WEBSITE: <https://www.fws.gov/gorgefish/SpringCreekNFH/SCIndex.cfm>

PROJECT LOCATION: 61552 SR14, Underwood, WA 98651

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

POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the Columbia River Gorge National Fish Hatchery Complex will sponsor a VetsWork AmeriCorps Intern to serve as a Biological Science Technician. The position will 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 upon completion of the Bonneville Dam 1938. Every job the Intern will perform contributes to the success of this facility and its ability to provide salmon for harvest. The Columbia River Gorge National Fish Hatchery Complex consists of six facilities, and there will be opportunities to assist each facility as needed.

The facility itself is on several acres of federal land belonging to the citizens of the U.S. Our staff is responsible to maintain, protect, and utilize to perform its primary function. The hatchery sits on the Columbia River with satellite facility situated on the Big White Salmon River.

Finally, the public also has a great interest in our job as many of them are benefiting from the salmon we produce through direct harvest or purchase 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 rely on these salmon for ceremonial and subsistence purposes. The Intern will interact with both tribal and recreational fisherman/general public and will be responsible for communicating 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.
- Assist with organizing and improving work stations on hatchery.
- 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.

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- 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.
- 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.
- A commitment to the goals of the Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery
- Comply with all Partner Organizations safety policies and procedures.
- Meet other requirements of a federal employee (e.g. background check)

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:

- Experience handling fish or working with wildlife.
- Basic computer skills including the use of email, internet searches, and Microsoft Office Products.
- 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 (VA) and the Department of Labor. Members with G.I. Bill benefits may be able to dual enroll as an apprentice and access

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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:

- Free housing is provided to interns by service site.
- The house is furnished and satellite internet may be provided free of charge. Washer and dryer also provided.
- Housing located on site/adjacent to the hatchery or at Carson NFH which is approximately 25 miles from Spring Creek NFH.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Intern is responsible for travel to and from 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 5 minute drive to White Salmon, WA or Hood River, OR where there is plenty of restaurants, grocery stores or other types of conveniences..
- 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](#)”
- 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

