

VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Fish & Wildlife Technician

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: U.S. Forest Service - Tongass National Forest

WEBSITE: fs.usda.gov/main/tongass/home

PROJECT LOCATION: 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, Alaska

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



for the greatest good



POSITION SUMMARY: In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI), the Tongass National Forest will sponsor a VetsWork AmeriCorps Intern to serve as a Fish and Wildlife Technician. This position will serve with a variety of projects, but it will be primarily divided into three parts:

1. First, the intern will help coordinate a virtual meeting for bear viewing area managers, assist with an outreach project, and initiate an independent project.
2. By spring, they will begin to prepare for passerine bird surveys around the Tongass National Forest and monitoring nesting seabirds near the Mendenhall Glacier.
3. Finally, as the birds begin to fledge and the salmon begin to spawn, they will support the subsistence fisheries program with remote video weir installations, maintenance, and data processing.

This is a primarily field-based position with exposure to all types of weather and terrain.

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

- Assist in hosting a virtual meeting and transcribing or collating notes.
- Assist in designing an outreach project for students.
- Initiate an independent project based on the intern's interests.
- Prepare field gear and accompany biologist in conducting Alaska Landbird Monitoring Surveys.
- Independently monitor nesting seabirds.
- Maintain remote cameras for Arctic Terns, mountain goats, and bears.
- Assist in the installation, maintenance, and removal of remote video weirs in remote locations.
- Review video footage to enumerate spawning Sockeye salmon.
- Assist in routine monitoring or dedicated surveys of in-stream structures for fish passage.
- Assist with snow surveys.
- 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.
- Must be able to carry field gear (including electronics, 12V marine batteries, etc.) across uneven terrain.

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

- Must be capable of working safely in the field on boats, in small aircraft, and hiking on- and off-trail, considering southeast Alaska experiences wet weather that can be extreme and has other hazards such as steep slopes, cold water, and bears.
- Must be capable of backpacking and camping in remote locations for multiple days.
- Must be willing to adjust to a temporary schedule for bird surveys that begins in the early morning hours.

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.
- **Must be fully vaccinated** against Covid-19 with the ability to provide documentation or have an approved medical or religious exemption prior to the start of the position. *Exemption forms can be found on our [website](#) and once submitted, they must go through a review and determination process before being approved.*
- **Must follow all Covid-19 policies** at the service site including any changes that are implemented throughout the course of the program. Policies may include masking/social distancing, remote/virtual work, altered field duties and other restrictions determined to be 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 enrolled in the program.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Excellent writing skills for internal and external correspondence, outreach material, and scientific reports.
- Proficiency with computers, spreadsheets, and data management.
- Ability and interest to serve on a variety of fish and wildlife projects.
- Ability or interest to identify Southeast Alaska birds by sight and sound.
- Proficiency working with electronics and video.

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).
- \$6,495 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 for intern is available through service site.

- The large bunkhouse is comprised of multiple 2-bedroom, 2-bath apartments that include a living room with a TV, full kitchen, and WIFI. Laundry facilities are provided on site.
- Covid-19 restrictions have limited occupancy to one person per bedroom, but if occupancy returns to full capacity each bedroom will house 2 individuals on twin beds.
- Pets and family members are not accommodated in the bunkhouse.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Airfare is provided at the start of our program; from Intern’s location to the Service Site (up to \$700)
- Upon successful completion of the program, airfare is provided from Service Site to Intern’s home (up to \$700).
- Agency/Organization vehicles are available for work-related travel.
- Project site is accessible by public transportation.
 - A Capital Transit bus stop is located close to the bunkhouse which provides access to grocery stores in the Mendenhall Valley and downtown businesses.
 - A mountain bike, lock, and helmet are provided for personal use throughout the season.
- Intern is responsible for travel to and from duty station.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- The internship is located in southeast Alaska, which is in a temperate rainforest. Expect frequent rainfall and cool (if not cold) temperatures.
- During winter, Juneau receives significant snowfall and occasional rain. Daylight is limited, and residents must cope with prolonged darkness.
- The Juneau road system has an elaborate network of hiking trails, a ski area, and access to fresh- and saltwater recreation activities.
- With approximately 30,000 people, Juneau offers most amenities such as a variety of larger and specialty grocery stores, cultural events, museums, art and music festivals, etc.
- Juneau is not accessible by road, but it can be reached by ferry (Alaska Marine Highway) or major air carriers.

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 (someone who has **supervised** you; 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

