

VETSWORK – ENVIRONMENT

AMERICORPS POSITION DESCRIPTION

POSITION TITLE: Biological Sciences Technician

PARTNER ORGANIZATION: Tongass National Forest

WEBSITE: fs.usda.gov/tongass/

PROJECT LOCATION: Craig Ranger District, 504 9th Street, Craig, AK

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 Biological Sciences Technician. This position will be an integral part of the Prince of Wales Survey Crew. The Intern will be helping to plan and prepare maps for the survey season on both Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts, giving the Intern an opportunity to experience much of the island. Tasks may include goshawk surveys, deer browse counts, audio monitoring for flying squirrels and bats, songbird surveys, wolf and bear hair board DNA collection, and assisting fisheries, recreation, or other resources as priorities dictate. Following field season candidate will compile and enter data, proof data, and summarize field efforts. There is potential to assist in other duties and/or other resource areas throughout the term of the internship.

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

- Field season planning with the use of GIS to create planned survey grids, inventory and test field gear/survey equipment, testing of electronic survey forms, and other tasks as needs arise.
- Conduct songbird surveys.
- Northern goshawk nesting habitat searching/surveys.
- Raptor and Murrelet nest monitoring.
- Assist with audio monitoring surveys.
- Perform DNA collection.
- Data entry and proofing of documents.
- Help with forage evaluation/stand exams.
- 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.
- Physically/mentally capable of hiking 5 miles or more in steep, rugged, wet terrain carrying up to 35 pounds.
- Capable of driving full-size truck responsibly on rough, narrow forest roads.
- Basic knowledge in creation and use of electronic mapping (i.e. GIS, Google Earth, etc.).
- Ability to work and get along with co-workers.

AmeriCorps

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

- 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 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:

- Experience in/knowledge of bird songs and calls.
- Experience in/knowledge of GIS.
- Experience in use of chainsaws, ATVs/UTVs.
- Knowledge in botany and tree identification.
- Mechanically inclined – for example, can safely and independently change a tire on a soggy forest road.
- Interest in the field of wildlife biology, habitat management and/or fisheries

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.
 - Bunkhouse is within walking distance of work-site.
- Laundry and WIFI available on site.

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION:

- Airfare is provided at the start of the program; from Intern's location to the Service Site (up to \$700)
- Upon successful completion of the program, airfare provided from Service Site to Intern's home (up to \$700).
- Agency/Organization vehicles are available for work-related travel.

- Intern is responsible for travel to and from duty station.
- Project site is accessible by limited public transportation (taxi or shuttle).

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

- Prince of Wales Island (POW) is the 4th largest island in the United States. Located in the southern end of the Tongass National Forest and the west-central portion of POW, Craig receives nearly 9 feet of rainfall per year on average. The majority of this precipitation falls from autumn through spring, but the participant should not expect a dry summer.
- Craig is the largest town on Prince of Wales Island. It has around 1,000 residents while the island is home to approximately 4,500 residents. POW has more road systems than anywhere else in southeast Alaska. Much of the island can be accessed via a relatively extensive road system.
- There are two healthcare clinics within 7 miles but no hospitals on the island. There is no fast-food available in Craig, and only a handful of local restaurants. The community has a grocery store which is normally well stocked with the essentials. Travel in southeast can be a challenge due to remoteness of the area.
- Ferry service off POW to and from Ketchikan is available most days, and daily air travel is possible but often weather-dependent.
- There is a very noticeable difference in daylight hours between summer and winter, with more than 17 hours of darkness each day in the shortest days of winter, and about the same length of light in the longest days of summer.

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

