

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

INTERN PROGRAM REQUEST

EMPLOYER: Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

CONTACT PERSON'S NAME/TITLE: Torrey Ritter/Wildlife Biologist

ADDRESS: 3201 Spurgin Road

CITY: Missoula

STATE: Montana

ZIP: 59804

PHONE: 406-381-2339

EMAIL ADDRESS: torrey.ritter@mt.gov

DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT: Friday, January 5, 2024

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 16, 2024 at 5:00 PM (postmarked)

****STUDENTS MUST BE CURRENTLY ENROLLED IN A UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE****

POSITION TITLE: Nongame Wildlife Intern – Loon Ranger

OF POSITIONS: 1

LOCATION(S): Missoula, MT

WORK START/END DATES: Approximately May 6th – August 23rd, depending on student's availability

HOURS/WEEK: 40 **TOTAL HOURS FOR INTERNSHIP:** Up to 600

TRAINING/ORIENTATION DATES: Training date in late April or early May, to be determined.

HOURLY PAY: \$13.00/hr

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION/RESOURCES:

Housing provided

If yes, please list type of housing available: Housing is available at the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA bunkhouse for the duration of the position. There may be up to 5 additional roommates at the bunkhouse during the season. Trailer hookups are available at the bunkhouse for applicants that prefer that living situation and can provide their own trailer.

Vehicle provided

Per Diem

Other (please explain):

POSITION DESCRIPTION/SCOPE OF WORK: Interns will work with the Regional MFWP nongame wildlife biologists to conduct all aspects of the Regional Loon Conservation Program. The intern, also referred to as a "Loon Ranger" will be the primary MFWP person responsible for monitoring and protecting nesting loons in the Blackfoot, Seeley-Swan, and Kalispell areas, as well as doing educational outreach and programs aimed at increasing the public's understanding of and appreciating for common loons and their habitats in Montana.

Loon monitoring and management activities primarily occur during May through July. In coordination with local biologists, interns conduct common loon surveys, deploy and collect floating signs, monitor loons for leg bands, interact with the public on topics of loon conservation, keep daily log of activities, and give campground or other presentations if requested. The intern prepares a final loon nesting summary report at the end of the summer and presents their findings at the Montana Loon Working Group summer meeting in late July. Interns assist in the entry of the loon data into the statewide loon database and other species observations into other databases as appropriate. The intern may sometimes assist other wildlife biologists with their work as needed.

Survey and monitoring methods employed during this internship may include part or all of the following: nest monitoring, careful observations to read leg bands, loon capture and banding, floating sign deployment, trail camera use, beaver activity surveys, and collection of genetic samples.

Loon Ranger work requires the ability to work alone/independently at times and with other biologists or interns. Often this work will involve long hours (early mornings/evening surveys), sometimes hiking long distances in grizzly bear habitat and often under inclement weather conditions carrying backpacks and field gear. This position requires the use of motorized and non-motorized watercraft, including kayaks, canoes, and small motorized boats. The intern will be required to work with other biologists, law enforcement officers, interns and/or volunteers at times. Interns would work directly with FWP biologists and other FWP staff as well as partners like the U.S. Forest Service and the Montana Loon Society.

Contact Torrey Ritter in Region 2 for more details on job description.

SKILLS, ABILITIES, KNOWLEDGE NEEDED (EDUCATION; UNDERGRAD/GRAD LEVEL, SUGGESTED/REQUIRED MAJORS):

Required:

- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work well independently as well as with a partner or team.
- 1-2 years of education in biology, wildlife biology, ornithology, fisheries, resource management, or related fields.
- Ability to lift 35-50 lbs. Intern will need to carry a canoe and loon signs for up to 1/4-mile to some boat launches.
- Ability to carry 20-40 lbs. in a backpack for up to 6 miles in a day in mountainous terrain.
- It is particularly important that the intern has a high level of awareness and can conduct themselves safely in the outdoors.
- Must be able to represent the agency in a professional manner while working with landowners and the public.
- Intern needs to have a cell phone available for use. Interns will need to keep in close contact with multiple agencies and organizations or individuals depending on their location and assignments.
- Interns from out-of-state may be required to obtain a Montana driver's license after 90 days.

Preferred:

- Ability to use 4-wheel drive vehicles and watercraft (canoes or kayaks and motorized boats) to access lakes.
- Familiarity with the use of binoculars and high-powered spotting scopes to identify birds and color band combinations. Binoculars and scopes will be provided.

Negotiable:

- It is preferred that interns provide their own hip boots or waders, as well as other basic outdoor gear

including backpack, hiking boots, rain gear, and safety gear (e.g., first aid kit, fire-starting kit, etc.). However, lack of these items should not prevent applicants from applying, as other arrangements may be possible and can be discussed during the interview.

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Resume**
- Cover Letter**
- References**
- Other (please specify):**

Submit 1 digital copy of current **resume** identifying experience and skills related to the intern position description with list of **3 reference contacts**. Also provide a **cover letter** explaining the **reasons for your interest** in the internship and **why you are qualified to do the work**.

SEND APPLICATION MATERIALS TO: Send application materials to Torrey Ritter either by email (preferred) or to the physical address listed below:

Email: torrey.ritter@mt.gov

Address:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Attn: Torrey Ritter
3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59804

Applications must be received no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, February 16, 2024. Once all applications are received, Torrey Ritter will contact top applicants to arrange an interview and will let other applicants know if they were not selected for interview. Selections are generally made within 2-3 weeks of closing date. **Please email your application, if possible, with the header “Loon Ranger Intern Position”.**