### **MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**

### **INTERN PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

**EMPLOYER:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

**CONTACT PERSON'S NAME/TITLE:** Kristi DuBois/Wildlife Biologist

ADDRESS: 3201 Spurgin Road

CITY: Missoula STATE: MT ZIP: 59804

PHONE: 406-542-5551 EMAIL ADDRESS: kdubois@mt.gov

**DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT:** Friday, January 11, 2013

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Monday, March 4, 2013 at 5:00 PM (postmarked)

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

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

POSITION TITLE: Nongame Intern # OF POSITIONS: 1

**LOCATION(S):** Missoula, MT

WORK START/END DATES: Approximately May 10<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup>
HOURS/WEEK: 40

TRAINING/ORIENTATION DATES: May 11, 2012 (Attendance is mandatory)

### COMPENSATION (PAY, PER DIEM, HOUSING, VEHICLE, ETC):

\$9 – \$9.50/hr (depending on previous experience and funding) plus per diem at state rates; housing available at the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA bunkhouse. *There is no overtime for this position, paid holidays, or additional compensation for working on holidays or weekends*. A state vehicle will likely be available. **Individuals may need to use personal vehicle for part of all of summer if state vehicle is not available. Interns would be compensated for mileage at approximately \$0.50/mile.** 

#### POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Interns educate boaters, anglers, and other recreating members of the public visiting or living on Montana's common loon lakes about loon biology, nesting requirements, disturbance effects, and loon sign program. In coordination with local biologists, interns conduct common loon surveys, deploy and collect floating signs; give campground or other presentations; monitor loons for leg bands, keep daily log of activities; prepare a final summary report. Combined with other duties, interns may also present information on grizzly and black bear habits; work with bear or lion management specialists, education public or private landowners on best methods to avoid attracting bears to homes, campsites, and vehicles; provide information about public land food storage requirements; and give presentations to people at campgrounds, meetings, schools, outdoor events, homeowners meetings, citizen organizations and other venues. Interns may also help with nongame inventories, management and habitat work on local WMAs or other important wildlife duties. Contact Kristi DuBois in Region 2 for more details on intern position duties after January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Students would work directly with FWP biologists and/or work in closely with local Forest Service biologists on the Common Loon Working Group to provide public outreach at key common loon nesting lakes that receive intense public use during the common loon-nesting season. Students would also work

with bear specialists, wardens, and local federal or state biologists for the bear education and outreach portion.

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

Good communication skills, ability to work independently; 1-2 years in biology, wildlife biology, ornithology; or wildlife or recreation management or fisheries; **ability to use 4-wheel drive standard transmission vehicles**, and motor or non-motorized boats (canoes or kayaks) to access lakes. Able to carry 35-50 lbs. Should have own high quality binoculars (10x40) and be able to use high powered spotting scopes for identify birds and color band combinations. **Interns will need to keep in close contact with multiple agencies and organizations or individuals depending on their location and assignments.** 

## <u>APPLICATION MATERIALS/PROCEDURES (RESUME, COVER LETTER, REFERENCES, ETC.):</u>

Submit 1 digital copy of current **resume** identifying experience and skills related to the intern position description with list of 3 reference contacts. Also include a **cover letter** explaining the reasons for your interest in the internship, which internship location(s) you would prefer (if you have applied for other loon intern positions), personal vehicle that you may have for use if needed, and why you are qualified to do the work. Send above to Kristi DuBois, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 3201 Spurgin Rd, Missoula, MT 59804 or to <a href="kdubois@mt.gov">kdubois@mt.gov</a> no later than 5:00 pm on March 4, 2013. Selections are generally made within 2 weeks of closing date.

### **COOPERATING SPONSORS OF PROJECT:**

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks Nongame Program, Regional Wildlife and Fisheries Programs, Living With Wildlife Program, Parks Programs, Montana Loon Society (nonprofit), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Montana Dept. of Natural Resources, Flathead, Lolo, and Kootenai National Forests, Plum Creek Timber Co./Avista Corporation, Ashley Lake Property Owners Assoc.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: (;HOUSING OF ANY KIND PROVIDED OR POSSIBLY AVAILABLE I.E. TRAILER, FREE CAMP SPOT, BASEMENT APARTMENT, EXTRA SLEEPING ROOM, ETC.):

Housing is usually available at the Blackfoot-Clearwater Wildlife Management Area bunkhouse. Loon training is usually the first weekend in May, and it is required. It includes basics of common loon identification and ecology, public outreach tools and methods, data recording, contacts, daily guidance, information on the use of floating signs and other materials during a full day of required training usually during the first weekend in May provided by the Montana Loon Society and other agencies. A notebook with data forms, contact information, maps, and other materials are given to each loon ranger at the beginning of the field season and returned to FWP at the end of the internship. Each intern completes a year-end report covering the extent of their efforts, summary of monitoring results by lake or visits, and recommendations for the next field season. They should also be able to assist in the entry of the loon data into the statewide loon database. Training for other duties will be determined after the start of the internship.

Working on both Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> holidays is usually required. The position may be extended into mid to late August, if funding is available.

The Loon Ranger program began in 2000 with a single Loon Ranger intern in the Blackfoot and Clearwater Valleys. The program has grown to at least 3 loon ranger interns that cover most of the common loon-breeding habitat in northwest Montana. The Forest Service has also included loon ranger type duties in the Forest Service Wildlife Technician program. Common loons are highly vulnerable to disturbance during the nesting season. Montana supports only about 60-80 pairs of common loons. Of these, only about 30 pairs produce 34-45 chicks each year.

In recent years, the Forest Service issued several food storage orders to reduce the conflicts between campers and bears in the backcountry. There are also a need to educate homeowners, landowners, and others on reducing other bear attractants such as animal carcasses, barbeques, gardens, composting, and bird feeders. Based on the success in the Swan Valley in 2006 and 2007 where an intern provided both loon and bear educational needs during the summer, the partners believe this model could be expanded to other locations. In 2008, the Blackfoot Clearwater intern also worked to implement habitat improvements on the nearby Wildlife Management Area. Other nongame inventory work may be added to Region Two internship duties for the latter part of summer. The focus of early summer would be on identifying active loons nesting areas in need of floating signs and management. Middle summer activities might include bear education, habitat, inventory or other duties while monitoring loon-nesting areas. The end of summer could be totally devoted to bear education or other duties. Duration of the internship will be based on program and funding secured.