MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS

INTERN PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

EMPLOYER: Montana Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

CONTACT PERSON'S NAME/TITLE: Chris Hammond/Wildlife Biologist

ADDRESS: 490 North Meridian Road

CITY: Kalispell **STATE:** MT **ZIP:** 59901

PHONE: 406-751-4582 **EMAIL ADDRESS:** chammond@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****

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POSITION TITLE: Nongame Intern **# OF POSITIONS:** 1

LOCATION(S): Kalispell, MT

WORK START/END DATES: Approximately May 10th-August 9th **HOURS/WEEK:** 40

TRAINING/ORIENTATION DATES: May 11th (**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. A vehicle will likely be available for this position and housing may be provided. ***There is no overtime for this position, paid holidays, or additional compensation for working on holidays or weekends***. **Individuals may need to use personal vehicle for part or all of summer if state/federal vehicle not available. Interns would be compensated for mileage at approximately $0.50/mile.**

POSITION DESCRIPTION:

Interns would work directly with FWP or 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. 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 presentations at campgrounds, meetings, schools, and events; monitor loons for leg bands, keep daily log of activities; and prepare final summary report. Other duties may include: educating the public on proper food storage for avoiding bear attractants, assisting with old growth, lynx habitat, and amphibian surveys, conducting bald eagle nest and wildlife habitat monitoring, shrub planting, and other wildlife duties as assigned.

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 vehicles and motor or non-motorized boats (canoes or kayaks) to access lakes. Able to carry 35-50 lbs. Interns 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.**

APPLICATION MATERIALS/PROCEDURES (RESUME, COVER LETTER, REFERENCES, ETC.):

Submit 1 digital copy of current **resume** identifying experience and skills related to the intern position description with list of 3 reference contacts. Also send **cover or transmittal letter** explaining the reasons for your interest in the internship, which internship location(s) you would prefer, personal vehicle that you may have for use if needed, and why you are qualified to do the work. Send above to Chris Hammond, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 490 N. Meridian Rd. Kalispell, MT 59901 or to chammond@mt.gov 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 (Non profit), 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.):

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.

Loon training is usually the first weekend in May and 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 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 supervisor 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. Duration of the internship will be based on program and funding secured.