

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS**  
**INTERN PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

**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:** 406-542-5551

**EMAIL ADDRESS:** torrey.ritter@mt.gov

**DATE OF ANNOUNCEMENT:** Monday, January 3, 2022

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Friday, February 18, 2022 at 5:00 PM (postmarked)

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

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**POSITION TITLE:** Nongame Wildlife Intern/Loon Ranger

**# OF POSITIONS:** 1

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

**WORK START/END DATES:** Approximately May 16<sup>th</sup> – August 9<sup>th</sup>

**HOURS/WEEK:** 40

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

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

\$11.50/hr plus per diem (meals) at state rates when in the field overnight. Housing is sometimes available at the Blackfoot-Clearwater WMA for the duration of the position but is not guaranteed. Therefore, applicants should expect that no housing will be provided. Holiday/weekend work will be required. *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/federal vehicle not available. Interns would be compensated for mileage at the approved state rate. Duration of the job depends on funding, usually 12-13 weeks.**

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:**

Interns will work with the Regional MFWP nongame wildlife biologist to conduct all aspects of the Regional nongame program. The intern will assist with monitoring a variety of wildlife species which may include common loon, bald eagle, black swift, northern bog lemming, and various other Species of Concern. The intern may also help with surveys for bats, herpetofauna, and beavers.

Loon monitoring and management activities comprise the primary intern duties during May and June. 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, trail camera deployment, small mammal trapping, bat acoustic surveys, call-back surveys for birds, beaver activity surveys, and collection of genetic samples (scat or hair).

Nongame intern work requires the ability to work alone/independently and with other biologists or interns. This position requires weekend and night work, including hiking at night for some surveys. This position requires the use of small non-motorized boats, such as a kayak or solo canoe. This position requires a strong awareness and knowledge about safely working in grizzly bear country, though previous experience in grizzly bear country is not required.

**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 10 miles in a day in mountainous terrain.
- 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.
- Interns are required to follow safety protocols for Covid-19, to be discussed at the start of the internship. Significant breaches of Covid-19 safety protocols will be ground for immediate termination from the internship.

**Preferred:**

- Ability to use 4-wheel drive vehicles (may be stick shift) and non-motorized boats (canoes or kayaks) 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 highly 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 preclude applicants from applying, as other arrangements may be possible and can be discussed during the interview.

**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**. Please provide a **list of all relevant classes** (e.g., biology, wildlife, recreation, resource management, botany, etc.) you have completed as part of your resume

(official transcripts are not necessary). Also provide a **cover letter** explaining the **reasons for your interest** in the internship, personal vehicle that you may have for use if needed, and why you are qualified to do the work.

Send above to Torrey Ritter, email [torrey.ritter@mt.gov](mailto:torrey.ritter@mt.gov), Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT 59804 no later than 5:00 pm on Friday, February 18, 2022. 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.**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**No housing is provided in Missoula.** In past years space has been available in an FWP bunkhouse near Ovando for field work in the Blackfoot-Clearwater areas but that housing is unlikely to be available in 2022. Camp trailer hookups and some use of the bunkhouse is available if intern can provide a trailer. Travel to other parts of the region may involve camping and camp site fees will be covered if free sites cannot be negotiated with campground managers.

Training will be determined after the start of the internship.

Student interns must have a valid driver's license to drive a state vehicle. They also must have current vehicle insurance if they drive their personal vehicle during their internship.