

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

**EMPLOYER:** Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (MFWP)

**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:** Friday, January 6, 2023

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** Friday, February 17, 2023, 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 15<sup>th</sup> – August 25<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):**

\$13.00/hr plus per diem (meals) at state rates when in the field. Holiday and weekend work will be required. *There is no overtime, paid holidays, or additional compensation for working on holidays or weekends.* Duration of the job depends on funding 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.

A state vehicle will be available for work use only.

**POSITION DESCRIPTION:**

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 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 and professionally work with landowners and the public relaying accurate information.
- 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 grounds for immediate termination from the internship.

**Preferred:**

- Ability to use 4-wheel drive vehicles (may be stick shift) 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 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 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 17, 2023. 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 header “Region 2 Non-game Intern”.**

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**Travel to cover loon lakes may involve camping and, in some rare cases, overnight stays at hotels. 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.**

**Applicants MUST be a student enrolled at a university to be eligible for MFWP internships. If graduating spring prior to the internship, enrollment for summer credits still qualifies applicant as eligible to apply.**