

State of Washington
Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
invites applications for the position of:

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Working for Washington State

FISH AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST 1 *08411W

SALARY: \$2,663.00 - \$2,855.00 Monthly

OPENING DATE: 08/13/13

CLOSING DATE: 08/25/13 11:59 PM

DESCRIPTION:



Our Mission
To preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

Vision
Conservation of Washington's fish and wildlife resources and ecosystems.

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is dedicated to protecting native fish and wildlife, and providing sustainable fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for millions of residents and visitors. Working throughout the state, WDFW's employees—field biologists, enforcement officers, land stewards, lab technicians, customer service representatives and others—manage hundreds of fish and wildlife species, maintain nearly a million acres of public wildlife lands, provide opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing, wildlife viewing and hunting, protect and restore habitat and enforce laws that protect fish and wildlife resources. Find out more about us and the important work we are a part of at www.wdfw.wa.gov.

Fish & Wildlife Biologist 1 **(Full time, Project-Permanent)**

The WDFW is recruiting to fill three (3), full time, project-permanent, Fish and Wildlife Biologist 1 positions located in the Wildlife Program, Science Division. The duty station is Pierce County but work will be conducted throughout the Puget Sound Area to include the Strait of Juan de Fuca and the outer coast of Washington State to the Columbia River.

These 3 positions conduct professional biological studies, provide analysis and assessment of wildlife management data using established scientific principles and techniques. As seabird and marine mammal biologists, they are members of a four-person field crew conducting boat surveys in Puget Sound, along the Strait of Juan de Fuca, and the outer coast of Washington south to the Columbia River. In addition to gathering distribution and abundance data, the positions will also be responsible for entering data, proofing data, summarizing data and co-authoring annual monitoring reports. The marbled murrelet is a seabird that was listed under the federal Endangered Species Act as a Threatened species in California, Oregon and Washington and it is listed as Threatened by Washington State. The marbled murrelet recovery plan outlines recovery strategies including developing and conducting standardized at-sea surveys. These surveys allow researchers and managers to model population trends and evaluate progress towards recovery. In addition, when developing the Northwest Forest Plan for managing federal forest lands, it was decided that at-sea murrelet population trends were to be used to assess the effectiveness of the plan. The surveys conducted for

USFWS allow us to estimate the density and trends of murrelets in the marine waters of Washington. The surveys conducted for the Navy provide information on the density of murrelets, other seabirds, and marine mammals relative to Navy facilities in the Northwest and these data are ultimately used by USFWS and NOAA during ESA Section 6 consultations to assess impacts of Navy training and facility development. These projects are Federally funded and research on seabirds and marine mammals are necessary to address USFWS, NOAA, and WDFW research and management needs.

DUTIES:

- Conducts biological studies and surveys using established procedures and protocols; summarizes biological data, and co-authors research reports;
- Collects data on birds and mammals in marine environments for use in determining habitat use, population distribution and abundance and the relative importance (suitability) of different habitats;
- Enters, proofs, and summarizes data in DLOG2 and/or Excel including using summary statistics. In addition, may co-author year-end reports to the federal funding agencies;
- May review marine mammal and seabird diet literature to identify potential salmon predators and co-author associated report;
- May conduct Tufted Puffin colony surveys – a species that has been proposed for state and Federal listing and assist with data summary and report writing;
- May supervise or lead assigned personnel or volunteers in the field.

Specific tasks include:

- Use line transect distance sampling to collect detailed seabird and marine mammal distribution and abundance data and enter those data into specialized software (DLOG2) on a laptop computer during surveys. Surveys are conducted in accordance with the Marbled Murrelet Effectiveness Monitoring survey protocols and protocols developed for the Naval Base Monitoring Program. Surveys are conducted throughout the year and often in inclement weather;
- Data collection includes distribution and abundance of all seabirds (in both summer and winter plumages) and marine mammals encountered along transects as well as monitoring attendance at Washington seabird colonies;
- Data entry, data proofing, data summary (summary statistics) and report writing;
- Communicate effectively to the public and federal, state, and county officials;
- Daily cleaning of research boat;
- Maintenance of binoculars, electronic equipment, and communication equipment.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education:

A Bachelor's degree in fisheries, wildlife management, natural resource science, or environmental science. Twelve semester or eighteen quarter hours of specific course work is required for certain positions.

Experience*: Equivalent education/experience..

Licenses: Valid Washington State Drivers License

Competencies:

The best qualified candidate will be possess the following skills, knowledge and abilities:

- Ability to accurately identify Washington's marine mammal and seabirds in both breeding and non-breeding plumages;
- Ability to prepare detailed written reports on technical studies;
- Proficient in use of MS Word and Excel with experience summarizing data in Excel or similar software;
- Ability to apply standard statistical techniques to summarize research data.
- Be physically capable of withstanding long hours in a small boat (24 feet) at times in adverse weather and sea conditions and have excellent eyesight;
- Field experience using line transect distance sampling from boats;
- Live and work cooperatively in a team of four people, have excellent attention to detail, and good communication skills;
- Knowledge of principles and procedures of biological research and of field methods;
- Ability to use standard field equipment

* Experience is based on full time equivalency (i.e., 40 or more hours/week). Part time work is prorated (e.g., 20 hours/week for 6 years = 3 years of experience). Do not count experience that was a part of your educational requirements.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

Schedule:

Marbled Murrelet Monitoring Project: May – July, Monday – Friday (full time). Work on weekends and holidays possible.

Naval Base Monitoring Project: 1 October – 15 March, Monday – Friday (0.86 of full time). Work on weekends and holidays possible.

Working Conditions & Travel requirements:

Marbled Murrelet Monitoring Project: Travel is expected Monday through Friday of each week with surveys originating from one of four ports including Neah Bay, LaPush, Westport, and Ilwaco. Technicians will live in a trailer and hotels during the week. Per Diem will be provided when overnight stays away from duty station are required. A Motor Pool vehicle will be provided for transportation from duty station (TBD) to field sites.

Naval Base Monitoring Project: Day trips (in general) are expected to each of 7 Naval Installation sites within Puget Sound and overnight stays for the 1 site located on the outer coast of Washington. Per Diem will be provided when overnight stays away from duty station are required. A Motor Pool vehicle will be provided for transportation from duty station (TBD) to field sites.

Union

This position is covered by a collective bargaining agreement between the State of Washington, Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Washington Association of Fish and Wildlife Professionals (WAFWP). As a condition of employment you must either join the union and pay union dues, or pay the union a representational or other fee within 30 days of the date you are put into pay status.

To apply for this position you MUST complete your profile at www.careers.wa.gov and attach the following to your profile before completing the online application:

A cover letter describing how you meet the qualifications of this position (generic cover letter will not be accepted)

A current resume (please make it succinct)

Three professional references (personal references do not count as professional)

Please note: Failure to follow the above application instructions will lead to disqualification. E-mailed documents will not be accepted in lieu of attaching your documents to the online profile.

Upon submission of your online application, you will immediately receive a confirming e-mail. You will then be notified via e-mail of your status during the process. In addition to the e-mail notifications, you can check the status of your application at any time by visiting your online profile at www.careers.wa.gov. Due to the high volume of applications that we receive, we ask your understanding and encourage you to use the online process and avoid calling for information.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife is an equal opportunity employer. We strive to create a working environment that includes and respects cultural, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation and gender identity diversity. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons of disability, persons over 40 years of age, disabled and Vietnam era veterans and people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are encouraged to apply. Persons needing accommodation in the application process or this announcement in an alternative format may call (360) 902-2276 or the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (800) 833-6388.

FISH AND WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST 1 *08411W Supplemental Questionnaire

* 1. Please specify your level of education:

High School or GED equivalent

- Associates degree
 - Bachelor's degree in fisheries, wildlife management, natural resource science, or environmental science or related field.
 - Master's degree or higher in fisheries, wildlife management, natural resource science, or environmental science or related field.
 - No degree or the degree is unrelated to fisheries, wildlife management, natural resource science, or environmental sciences or related field.
 - None of the above
- * 2. What is your major area of study? If multiple degrees, please list each degree and major.
- * 3. Please describe in detail your experience identifying Washington seabirds in flight and on water and from considerable distances. Include the species of bird, the body of water, the time of year, the amount of experience you have, and how you obtained the experience.
- * 4. Please describe in detail your experience identifying Washington marine mammals. Include the species of marine mammal, the body of water, the amount of experience you have, and how you obtained the experience.
- * 5. Please describe your experience using line transect distance sampling from a boat.
6. Please briefly describe your experience collecting and maintaining detailed scientific data. Include the type of data you collected and how you obtained this experience.
- * 7. Please briefly describe your experience on small boats in the open ocean.
- * 8. Do you get sea sick?
 Yes No
- * 9. Is your eyesight (corrected) adequate to identify distant flying seabirds (within reason)?
 Yes No
- * 10. Are you willing and able to work in adverse weather and sea conditions?
 Yes No
- * 11. Are you willing and able to perform work requiring you to push, pull and lift up to 25 pounds?
 Yes No
- * 12. Are you willing and able to travel daily up to five days/week?
 Yes No
- * 13. Are you willing and able to work cooperatively in a team of four people?

Yes No

* 14. Are you willing and able to work non-scheduled hours including evenings and weekends?

Yes No

* 15. Are you willing and able to work hours outside of the regular hours of 8:00 am - 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, including weekends and holidays? (Some days will exceed 8 hours)

Yes No

* 16. Do you have a valid Washington State, or other state, driver's license? (If selected for an Interview, you may be asked to furnish your license and driving record.)

Yes No

* 17. Have you been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony within the past ten (10) years? (Conviction of a misdemeanor or felony does not necessarily bar you from employment.)

Yes No

* 18. Please verify that you have included the following information in your online application:
1) A chronological resume OR a completed online profile that includes education and employment history
2) A detailed cover letter describing how you meet the qualifications for this position.
3) Detailed responses to all supplemental questions.
4) Three professional references.

Yes No

* Required Question