

State of Washington
 Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
 invites applications for the position of:
Permanent Fish & Wildlife Health Specialist
***00678-14**

careers.wa.gov
 Working for Washington State

SALARY: \$3,918.00 - \$5,136.00 Monthly

OPENING DATE: 01/21/14

CLOSING DATE: Continuous

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 DEPARTMENT

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

This is a permanent full-time Fish & Wildlife Health Specialist position in the Fish Program, Hatchery Support Division. The duty station can be anywhere between Everett and Mt Vernon, (excluding Bellingham) WA.

Routinely monitor and evaluate health of finfish, primarily at WDFW hatcheries but also at cooperative facilities, and in wild fish populations. Recommend best possible treatments currently available to: control disease; institute disease prevention programs; recommend modifications in rearing parameters and fish cultural practices to prevent disease; and perform applied research for improving the health of finfish at WDFW hatcheries. Ensure compliance with FDA and DOE requirements for use of therapeutants. Conduct surveillance for regulated pathogens to meet the requirements of the Salmonid Disease Control Policy of the Co-Managers of Washington State (Policy). Provide directions to Fish Program staff and aquaculturists regarding compliance with this Policy. Provide reports on status of the health of the fish to WDFW staff and staff at agencies, tribes, states and the general public. Works independently consulting with hatchery staff and other fish health professionals.

DUTIES:

The Fish and Wildlife Health Specialist (FWHS) is responsible for monitoring health conditions and diagnosis of disease(s) of finfish at WDFW and cooperative facilities so as to produce the highest quality fish possible. Duties may also include occasional screening and diagnosis of wild fish.

Tasks include:

Determine appropriate finfish samples for the conditions at the time. Detect and recognize finfish pathogens including: bacteria, fungal, viral and parasites. Recognize environmental factors or fish cultural practices that may cause disease. Analyze other possible causes of disease in the absence of pathogens, toxicants and/or physiological issues. Determine the significance of any of these pathogens or conditions and take appropriate action(s). Collect the appropriate samples for confirmatory and prevalence testing. Requires understanding of finfish hatchery facility design, treatment procedures and maintains good communications with hatchery staff to determine possible factors which impact the health of the fish.

Determine appropriate corrective action to minimize additional loss associated with mortality. This requires knowledge of available therapeutics and their requirements for use, environmental factors conducive to causing disease either from specific pathogens or physiological conditions, and cultural activities which will compromise or promote health of the fish. Only FWHS can prescribe drug and chemical treatments.

Tasks include:

The ability to concisely provide instructions to hatchery staff who will be implementing the treatments or remediation. Also provide assessments of hatchery practices and design to avoid future epidemics and risk assessments of impacts of disease.

Responsible for sampling adult and juvenile populations for regulated pathogens to meet the requirements of the Policy.

Tasks include:

Sample adult and juvenile populations for regulated pathogens to meet the requirements of the Co-Managers Salmonid Disease Control Policy. Train hatchery staff to correctly obtain samples when the FWHS is absent. Ensure that all stocks are sampled at a minimum of annually, samples are taken properly, and they are packaged correctly for transport to the laboratory. Also instructs hatchery staff to maintain compliance with the Policy when carrying out their fish culture duties.

If a licensed Veterinarian the incumbent may be required to prescribe, monitor and have oversight in the application of prescription medications for finfish at WDFW operated hatchery facilities.

Tasks include:

Maintain database of veterinary prescriptions and Veterinary Feed Directives.

Design applied research studies to improve fish health and performance.

Tasks include:

Conduct or direct the applied research studies to improve fish health and performance. Collect data, analyze results and provide conclusions to hatchery staff, fish health staff in and out of the agency, and other agency staff.

Develop training modules for hatchery staff regarding disease recognition and prevention, sanitation, nutrition and best fish cultural practices. This promotes the health of the fish through early recognition of disease and prompt notification of the FWHS which can alleviate disease outbreaks. With hatchery staff develop containment plans to avoid amplification of pathogens.

Tasks include:

Conduct training of hatchery staff regarding disease recognition and prevention, sanitation, nutrition and best fish cultural practices. In conjunction with hatchery staff develop containment plans to avoid amplification of pathogens.

Interact with other agencies and tribal staff to provide status of health of fish, disease prevention measures and innovative treatments.

Tasks Include:

Meet and communicate with other agencies and tribal staff to provide status of health of fish, disease

prevention measures and innovative treatments.

Write written reports on health status of fish on a routine basis.

Tasks Include:

Provide written reports on health status of fish on a routine basis to supervisor and hatchery staffs. Quarterly or annual reports may also be required by contractual agreements.

Work Conditions

Work week is Sunday – Saturday and work hours are 8-5 Monday – Friday and 90% local travel to WDFW operated hatcheries. Primary work environment is in buildings on hatchery grounds such as the hatchery office/breakroom. Must be able to sit at microscope and perform fine manipulations for fish exams. Handles tissue preservation solutions, tissue staining solutions and works with sharp instruments at times.

Union

This position is covered by a collective bargaining agreement between the State of Washington, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE), which contains a "union security" provision. This means that, 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.

QUALIFICATIONS:

A graduate degree from an accredited college in fish health/pathology or Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from an accredited veterinary school and three years of professional experience in fish health/pathology.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

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.

Please note that initial screening will be solely based on the completeness of application materials submitted and the contents and completeness of the **“work experience”** section of your application in NeoGov. A resume will not substitute for the “work experience” section of the application. The information provided in your application must support your selected answers in the supplemental questions. Responses not supported in your application may disqualify you from consideration for employment in this position. All information will be verified and documentation may be required.

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.

Permanent Fish & Wildlife Health Specialist *00678-14 Supplemental Questionnaire

* 1. Have you ever been convicted of a misdemeanor or felony within the last ten (10) years?

Yes No

* 2. 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

* Required Question