



TEMPORARY EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Opens: Feb. 12th, 2024

Closes: Mar. 8th, 2024



Wildlife Diversity - Assistant Fish Biologist

West Virginia Division of Natural Resources

LOCATION: Reporting station will be the Elkins Operation Center (EOC) located in Elkins, West Virginia. Overnight statewide travel will be required throughout the year. Travel may include extended stays several weeks - months) at alternative field stations (AFS). Bunkroom housing is available at the EOC or an AFS. Lodging and per diem are provided to cover costs of overnight fieldwork trips.

NUMBER OF POSITIONS: 1

DUTIES: Functions as an Wildlife Diversity Assistant Fish Biologist (non-game) for the WVDNR Aquatic Community Assessment and Restoration Program (ACARP) that investigates patterns of fish diversity and abundance, habitat quality and availability, water chemistry, aquatic invertebrate community dynamics; and identifies and implements recovery actions for WV's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN). Incumbent will work as crew leader in ACARP with the following duties: 1) field sampling of fishes, physical habitat data collection, water quality, and invertebrates; 2) laboratory technician responsible for sorting and identification of fishes and invertebrates; 3) assist with restoration actions and assessments for SGCN fishes (including two federally endangered species); 4) data entry and manipulation; and 5) Other duties may be assigned as needed. Incumbent will be responsible for accurate measurements and recording of field data, as well as care and maintenance of field gear, laboratory facilities, and agency vehicles. This position will include year-round field work with the bulk of sampling occurring March – November. The selected candidate will sample in all major drainages within West Virginia, including headwaters systems to the Ohio River mainstem.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: A minimum of a B.S. in fisheries or a closely related field (ex. Biology). A M.Sc. in fisheries or closely related field preferred. The selected candidate will have knowledge and experience collecting scientific data related to fishes, water chemistry, physical habitat, and aquatic macroinvertebrates. Must have knowledge of laboratory methods and procedures used in processing and storage of museum grade specimens, acquisition of genetic samples, and preparation of age samples (otoliths and scales). Must be able to work independently, be well organized, and self-motivated. Capable of identifying and collecting biological life history data from fishes in a laboratory setting (i.e., age, fecundity, length, weight, meristic/morphometric measurements, etc.) and/or field environment. GIS, Microsoft Office, and Google Workspace experience is desired. Experience pulling trailers and operating boats, rafts, backpack electro-fishers, seines, and other fish collection equipment is a plus. Applicant must be able to work long hours in extreme weather conditions, confined spaces, or on uneven terrain. Selected candidate must be able to lift and carry approximately 60lbs. Must possess a valid driver's license and be willing to work extended stays in field locales. Applicant must be able to swim.

DATES OF EMPLOYMENT: Temporary appointment with up to 40hrs/week from March to December 31st, 2024 (allotted 2080 hrs. maximum for a calendar year). Possible extension may be available depending on program goals in 2025. Health insurance options may be available through PEIA for a fee to the employee. Bunkhouse housing at Elkins Operations Center provided.

WAGE RATE: \$17.00/hr.

TO APPLY: Send resume and letter of interest to Nathaniel Owens at Nathaniel.V.Owens@wv.gov

The State of West Virginia is an Equal Opportunity Employer