



Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

OUTREACH NOTICE

Fisheries Biologist – Permanent Full Time Position

GS-0482-9/11

La Grande Ranger District, La Grande, Oregon

USDA Forest Service is an equal employment opportunity employer.

The La Grande Ranger District, Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will soon be advertising a GS-0482-9/11 Fisheries Biologist position in La Grande, Oregon. This position will be included in a group vacancy announcement on USAJobs soon.

This position is instrumental in helping the Forest move on-going planning projects forward and meeting forest, region, and agency priorities. The Wallowa-Whitman in partnership with the neighboring Umatilla National Forest and many diverse partners recently submitted a Collaborative Forest Restoration Proposal (CFLRP) that was selected as the top project in the nation presenting new opportunities for advancing landscape scale restoration activities including activities focused on aquatic restoration objectives. The successful candidate will serve as the primary fisheries representative for interdisciplinary planning teams at the La Grande office. This position is responsible for section 7 Endangered Species Act consultation for a wide array of district projects and ongoing management activities. The duty station for this position is located at the base of the beautiful Northern Blue and Wallowa Mountains in La Grande, Oregon.

Please respond to the outreach database by February 15, 2024 with your interest and include brief resume or curriculum vitae with applicable work experience and education in your response.

External outreach link:

<https://fsoutreach.gdcii.com/?id=05295D7BBC3A482AB66B5D5CA3B8948C>

Government housing is not available.

The Position

This position will work directly for the La Grande District Ranger. The fisheries biologist serves as a member of an interdisciplinary team performing routine work as a fisheries biologist in support of vegetation management, fuels reduction, livestock grazing management, recreation, and a robust fish and aquatic habitat restoration partnership program. The district fisheries biologist will provide biological input for fish habitat management, development of fishery management plans, ensure compliance with fishery management plans, and prepare a variety of reports on effects to fish and aquatic resources from proposed management activities.

Analysis includes gathering, compiling, and analyzing data to determine fish habitat needs; determine key spawning and rearing areas, recommend solutions to issues or problems involving fish and aquatic resources; and determine the need for fish and aquatic habitat improvement projects. This position will develop project plans for inclusion in Forest program of work.

The district fisheries biologist works cooperatively with State, Tribal, and Federal fish and water quality management agencies. Duties include gathering information for stream and lake management plans, surveys of fish and aquatic distribution, and work with partners to identify fish habitat restoration actions. This position has a critical role on interdisciplinary teams and will integrate with other disciplines for developing projects-purpose and need, proposed action, and action alternatives. This position will integrate with the engineering program, range program, and fire program in planning and implementation of projects that may effect fish and aquatic habitat. The district fish biologist will serves as leader for fish and aquatic habitat inventory and monitoring on the district.

The distict fisheries biologist may supervise permanent and temporary seasonal technicians and coordinate with other disciplines on shared resources (such as permanent Natural Resource Technicians).

Other responsibilities include: public relation activities, such as speaking at meetings and participation in field trips, lead outreach and education activities in local schools and the community, report fish habitat management programs accomplishments to district ranger and aquatic program manager.

The Forest

The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is one of the largest forests in Region 6 with four Ranger Districts and one National Recreation Area. The Forest covers more than 2.3 million acres in three states and nine counties. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest has a diverse program with high recreation use, several ESA listed species, four wilderness areas, grazing, mining, and a large fire program.

The Forest hosts three units in the communities of La Grande, Enterprise, and Baker City. There are two satellite offices located in Riggins, Idaho and Clarkston, Washington. The Blue Mtn Interagency Dispatch Center is located in La Grande and is staffed by employees from the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests and Oregon Department of Forestry. The Forest Leadership Team is comprised of three district rangers, a deputy district ranger, five staff officers (customer service, engineering, natural resources, public affairs, and fire), as well as the Deputy Forest Supervisor, and Forest Supervisor.

For more information about the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest access the Forest Website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/wallowa-whitman>

The District and Community

The La Grande Ranger District office is located in La Grande, Oregon the county seat of Union County. La Grande lies in the Grande Ronde valley surrounded by the Northern Blue and Wallowa Mountains and the town's name comes from an early French settler, Charles Dause, who often used the phrase "La Grande" to describe the area's beauty. The culturally diverse population numbers approximately 12,500 residents, not including those who travel here to attend Eastern Oregon University.

The La Grande Ranger District employs approximately 50 full-time employees. Professionals working at La Grande Ranger District include fire, wildlife and fisheries, archeology, engineering, GIS, range, recreation, and planning. In addition, the district is home to the La Grande and Union Interagency Hotshot fire crews. During

the summer months, an additional 60-80 seasonal employees are hired for work on fire, recreation, range, timber, and natural resource field crews.

Given the districts location near the middle of Blue Mountain tri-forest (Wallowa-Whitman, Umatilla, and Malheur) area and co-location with other government agencies, partnership and shared stewardship opportunities abound. It is not unusual for employees to share the expertise of personnel with the Bureau of Land Management, neighboring national forests, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, National Marine Fisheries and US Fish and Wildlife, PNW Scientists and members and specialists of the Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation during the course of the workday.

La Grande is a full-service community offering public and private schools ranging from preschool to Eastern Oregon University, a full-service hospital, many doctors, dentists, opticians and chiropractors, diverse shopping opportunities and churches of most denominations. Located in the Blue Mountains on the Historic Oregon Trail at 2700 feet La Grande enjoys a four-season climate with opportunities for gardeners and snow enthusiasts alike. Located on Interstate 84 La Grande is 3 hours from Boise, Idaho, 2 hours from Pasco, Kennewick and Richland, Washington, and 4 hours from the Portland metro area.

Recreational opportunities abound including hiking, camping, hunting, fishing or just enjoying the beauty of the surrounding national forest lands, miles of hiker, horse, OHV, and mountain bike trails at Mount Emily Recreation area, backpacking in the Eagle Cap and Elkhorn mountains and proximity to Hells Canyon National Recreation Area. There are also two small-developed ski areas, snowmobile and ATV trails, and lakes with boating and fishing within an hour drive of La Grande.

The real estate market in La Grande, and other communities in the Grande Ronde Valley, have seen a lot of fluctuation in recent years. We recommend researching the current market. There is no Government Housing available in La Grande.

The following websites provide additional information about the area:

<https://www.cityoflagrande.org>

<http://www.unioncountychamber.org/>

We want to hear from you!! Please send interest response form along with resumes to La Grande District Ranger (acting), Aric Johnson aric.johnson@usda.gov or 541-962-8517 by February 15, 2024.

OUTREACH INTEREST RESPONSE FORM

I am interested in the **Fisheries Biologist** position at the La Grande Ranger District

Name:

Email Address:

Mailing Address:

Telephone Number:

Agency Employed with:

Type of Appointment:

Current Region/Forest/District:

Current Series and Grade:

Current Position Title:

If not a current permanent (Career or Career-Conditional) employee, are you eligible to be rehired under any of the following special authorities?

Persons with disabilities: ____

Veteran's readjustment: ____

Disabled veterans with 30% compensable disability: ____

Veteran's employment opportunities act of 1998: ____

Student career experience program: ____

Other: ____

Please tell us why you are interested in this position and special skills/strengths you would bring to the position.

PLEASE RESPOND By March 28, 2023

TO: La Grande District Ranger, Stephaney Kerley stephaney.kerley@usda.gov or 541-962-8582