



AmeriCorps Position Description

Position Title	Biological Assistant (Fisheries) - 2 positions
Partner Organization	Six Rivers National Forest & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Website	www.fs.usda.gov/srnf
Project Location	Orleans/Ukonom Ranger District, #1 Ishi Pishi Road, P.O. Box 410, Orleans CA 95556
Service Dates	February 5, 2024, to December 13, 2024 (1700-hour position)

About Mt. Adams Institute

[Mt. Adams Institute \(MAI\)](#) is a nonprofit organization based in the rural community of Trout Lake, Washington with a mission of strengthening the connection between people and the natural world through education, service learning, career development, and research. MAI's programming serves youth, adults, veterans and families in a variety of formats that embraces equity, diversity and inclusion. MAI is working to create opportunities to connect individuals with the natural world and to support those who are historically underrepresented in outdoor recreation and natural resource career fields.

VetsWork is an eleven-month career development internship program for military veterans interested in the natural resources management, public lands, and environment sector. VetsWork participants are placed at local, state, and federal land management agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service, providing project support while learning about various career paths.

Position Summary

In partnership with the Mt. Adams Institute (MAI) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Six Rivers National Forest (SRNF) and Mid-Klamath Watershed Council will sponsor two VetsWork AmeriCorps Interns to serve as Biological Assistants in the Fisheries Department. Interns will support various projects outlined within the annual Fisheries Program of Work. Projects will include Chinook and Coho surveys, developing hands-on restoration projects, stream monitoring efforts, and aquatic species inventory. They will also contribute to the on-the-ground success of this work with community volunteer participation in outreach events and other watershed restoration projects. Interns will receive training in various fish and watershed protocols, identification, snorkeling techniques, white-water safety, free diving, care and maintenance of equipment, defensive driving, aquatic habitat, restoration, and cultural resources.

These duties will focus on high-priority recovery actions in the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Salmon Recovery Plan and assist in managing fall Chinook salmon, as described in NOAA's Fisheries Management Plan for the Klamath Management Zone. The position will primarily assist the District Fish Biologist and other state, federal, tribal, local, and private partners with forest program of work priorities. The Interns will partner with and receive additional mentoring and supervision from the Mid-Klamath Water Council staff. The next few years are crucial as they prepare to remove the remaining three dams in the Upper Basin, marking it the largest salmon restoration effort in world history.

Essential Functions

To include, but not limited to:

- Assist with surveys, restoration, and stewardship of riparian and aquatic habitats on the Six Rivers and Klamath National Forest as well as private property adjacent to the Salmon, Klamath, Trinity, and Mad Rivers.
- Collect and manage data primarily related to salmonid species inventories, aquatic and riparian habitat assessments, hydrologic data collection and water quality research, fisheries restoration planning and implementation as outlined in the SONCC Coho Salmon Recovery Plan, photo monitoring, and documentation.
- Plan and lead stewardship monitoring, restoration, and outreach events through our collaborative partnerships.
- Participate in SRNF and KNF outreach and education events.
- Assist in building of new partnerships and maintaining existing ones.
- Help maintain and manage fisheries field gear and equipment.
- Assist with reporting for fisheries program accomplishments.
- Attend and complete all MAI/AmeriCorps trainings and service requirements, including orientation, trainings and team meetings.
- Complete and submit all necessary MAI/AmeriCorps paperwork and reports in a timely manner.
- Wear MAI identifiers and required safety gear while performing service or attending official events.

Position Requirements

Service Site

- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record, and ability to provide documentation.
- Able to serve in a remote and rural community.
- An interest in natural resources management and desire to gain both field and office skills.
- Must be able to complete tasks independently and with teams on multiple projects and sometimes balance simultaneous tasks and needs.
- Previous experience and familiarity with river navigation; ability to boat, swim and snorkel a river. Must be able to swim and be comfortable in moving streams.
- Ability to serve with people of various ages, interests, backgrounds, and beliefs.
- Must be self-motivated and be skilled in organization and time management.
- Excellent communication skills, including writing, speaking, and networking. Should be comfortable speaking to audiences as well as in one-on-one settings with students, partners and general public.
- Comfortable serving in both a field and office setting.
- Weekend and evening hours will be required on occasion.
- Must follow all health and safety policies and procedures, including any changes that are implemented throughout the course of the program. Policies may include masking/social distancing, remote/virtual work/PPE, altered field duties, and other restrictions determined to be necessary to keep site staff, partners and the public safe. Accepting a position means accepting the current requirements and any updates to those requirements while enrolled in the program.

AmeriCorps

- Must have served in the Uniformed Services of the United States, including Guard and Reserves and have a DD214 with an honorable or general under honorable (on case by case basis).
- At least 21 years of age at the beginning of the service term.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent, or commit to earning one prior to receiving an education award.
- Ability to commit to the full 45-week term of service.
- Attend MAI Orientation (February 5-9) and Intern trainings.
- Selection, placement, and retention are contingent upon passing the National Sex Offender Public Registry, state of service and state of residence criminal history check and a national FBI check.
- Members are eligible to serve up to four terms of service and receive AmeriCorps Education awards for each term of service up to the value of two full-time education awards only.

Preferred Qualifications

- Desire to learn about natural resource and fisheries management, river health, floodplain restoration, ecology, botany, and related fields.
- Previous experience and familiarity with river navigation; ability to boat, swim and snorkel a river.
- Ability to serve independently and with teams on multiple and sometime simultaneous diverse tasks.
- Excellent communication skills, including writing, speaking, and networking.
- Experience using Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and PowerPoint.
- Knowledge, experience, or strong desire to learn about using mapping software (GIS, Avenza, or Google Earth).

Benefits

- VetsWork is an apprenticeship program approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Labor. Members with G.I. Bill benefits may be able to dual enroll as an apprentice and access their Monthly Housing Allowance (MHA) of up to approximately \$2,400 per month. Actual benefits vary by individuals' qualified benefits.
- \$22,500 living allowance – paid monthly over the 10 ½ -month term of service (\$500 weekly, before taxes).
- \$7,395 education award (qualified student loans and/or education expenses)
- Loan Forbearance
- Health Care Insurance
- Child Care Reimbursement
- Professional development, trainings, and networking opportunities.

Housing

- \$1000/month housing stipend provided by service site.
- Potential Options Available:
 - USFS government housing maybe available in Orleans, CA
 - Shared dormitory housing with both single and double rooms. Shared washer and dryer, dishes, pots and pans, furniture and television are available. No linens or bedding available. No pets, alcohol or firearms.
 - A trailer/RV pad at Oak Bottom Campground on the Salmon River in Somes Bar, CA.
 - Intern seeks out housing options within the community of Orleans, Somes Bar, Weitchpec, Hoopa or Willow Creek, CA.

Transportation Information

- Intern is responsible for travel to and from duty station.
- Project site is not accessible by public transportation. A personal vehicle will be needed for this travel.
- Agency/Organization vehicles will be available for some service-related travel.
- A personal vehicle may be required to conduct fieldwork. In most cases, the intern can use a Forest Service vehicle. If a personal vehicle is used for service related travel, the intern will be reimbursed for mileage at the federal rate (Proof of a valid drivers' license and insurance meeting minimum coverage will be required).

Other Considerations

- These videos display some of the projects that the Orleans Ranger District's Fisheries Department and their partners take on in the Klamath River Watershed.
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zqqip5-bQGA>
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yiJALPYQG8o>
- Orleans is a very remote community. It is located about 2 hours from Eureka. Orleans has a small market, gas station, and church.
- There is limited cell phone service in the area. Verizon Wireless tends to work best.
- Some fisheries gear may be available for the intern, on-site. Certain gear purchases for work (such as boots and waders) can be reimbursed up to designated limits. The Intern will also receive support (hotel, per diem, travel costs) to attend one approved conference.

- The Six Rivers NF is located along the lower-mid Klamath River in Orleans, CA. The District is approx. 700,000 acres and comprised of the ancestral lands of the Hoopa, Karuk, Yurok and other local tribal partners. Four community-based non-profit groups (Mid-Klamath Watershed Council, Salmon River Restoration Council, Mountain Community and Culture, Hayfork Restoration Council) are also located within adjoining river sub-basins.
- The service site is in the heart of the middle Klamath River. The community cares about making a difference in the local watersheds and is very proud supporters of the work past MAI interns have accomplished.

Equal Opportunity Employer

MAI celebrates equity, diversity, and inclusiveness and does not discriminate against any person or group based on race, ethnicity, culture, age, gender, sexual orientation, expression, gender identity, ability, national origin or ancestry, veteran status, social economic class, religion, professional status, pregnancy, or parents/guardians with children. MAI is committed to a diverse workplace and to supporting our Interns and staff with trainings and career development opportunities.

MAI provides reasonable accommodations to applicants and employees. Applicants with disabilities may request a reasonable accommodation and/or alternative formats at any point in the employment process.

How To Apply

Email the following application materials to Erica Bingham at erica@mtadamsinstitute.org.

- **Resume**
- **Cover Letter** (one page; one for each position. Include your motivation for applying in the letter.)
- **Three Professional References** (former supervisors - military, civilian, or academic)
 - Include - Name, Title, Relation to you, email & phone number.
- **DD 214** – (with Honorable Discharge):
 - A “General Under Honorable” discharge will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
 - Must be long form “Member 4 copy” (has 30 total boxes of information).

Interview Process

1. **Mt. Adams Institute**
 - Screens Applications
 - Conducts pre-interviews
 - Recommends applicants for Service Site interviews.
2. **Service Sites**
 - Interviews candidates
 - Conducts reference checks
 - Recommends placement

Additional Information

- More information at “[VetsWork Frequently Asked Questions](#)”
- Cover letter information can be found at <https://www.macslis.org/articles/cover-letters>

Questions? Contact:

Erica Bingham

MAI Recruitment Coordinator

443-938-2259 (9a-4p Pacific)

erica@mtadamsinstitute.org

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