



Work with frogs in the Sierra Nevada this summer!

Four field positions available with the CDFW Region 2 High Mountain Lakes Project

Term: Seasonal positions. Two openings may begin in May (exact start date to-be-determined) and end around September 25th. Two others would tentatively begin in early June and stay on board through late Oct/early Nov. (Start and end dates have some flexibility.)

Schedule: Typically, a 40-hour work week, but the schedule can depend on weather, workload, etc. Generally, Monday to Thursday, 10 hrs/day, with 3 days off, particularly in the core season with longer periods of daylight. The schedule can also be Mon–Fri, 8 hrs/day, particularly later in the season. *Wildfire-related public land closures and smoke conditions may alter work schedules and hours at various points throughout the field season.* Typically, we meet at headquarters at the beginning of each work week, spend the week in the field, and then come back to headquarters on Thurs or Fri. The CDFW Region 2 headquarters is located at 1701 Nimbus Rd., Rancho Cordova, CA 95670.

Hourly pay rate: \$18.26 – \$21.67 (most start at \$18.26 per hour: wage is determined by personnel administrators, based on time in service with CDFW). **CDFW does not provide seasonal housing.**

Work Duties: Those hired will be part of a field crew (normally 2 people per crew, sometimes larger groups) for multi-day backcountry trips. Most field sites are in northern California wilderness areas, range in elevation from 6–9,000 feet, and require a combination of 4WD and backpacking to access. Some early spring and fall foothill work will also occur, in areas between about 1–4,000 feet.

Primarily, the crew will conduct native amphibian monitoring (focused on native ranid frogs, including Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frogs, *Rana sierrae* and Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs, *R. boylei*) using visual encounter survey (VES) and capture-mark-recapture (CMR) techniques. Crews will also conduct some surveys for Cascades Frogs (*R. cascadae*) in the northwestern portion of Region 2, and there may be a smaller amount of work with California Red-legged Frogs (*R. draytonii*). Crews will also assist with amphibian monitoring at past non-native fish removal sites. In addition to these duties, approximately 10% of the job may consist of monitoring and resource assessment of backcountry fisheries throughout the northern Sierra Nevada. Therefore, an ability to implement multiple survey protocols to collect amphibian, fish, and habitat data at lakes, streams, and meadows in the Sierra Nevada is necessary for success.

Additionally, successful applicants will:

- Rigorously follow standardized aquatic survey protocols for a variety of amphibian recovery and monitoring projects.
- Record data clearly and comprehensively, including the use of Survey123 forms.
- Coordinate with project leads, other seasonal employees, and volunteers to ensure complete and timely project implementation.
- Possibly assist with data quality checking and analysis, reporting, presentation, archiving, and report preparation using Microsoft Office and GIS programs.



Minimum Qualifications: The successful applicants must possess the following minimum qualifications (see the “Minimum Requirements” section of the application link below for full details):

1. Equivalent to completion of two years of college with a minimum of 10 semester hours in biological or chemistry sciences. (*Undergraduate degree in biological sciences preferred.*) **OR**
2. One year of experience in surveying, studying, or evaluating fish or wildlife populations; or working in a scientific laboratory.
 - Ability and willingness to be away from home for overnight stays, camp in remote areas, and work in inclement weather.
 - Work irregular hours (on holidays and—more rarely—weekends).
 - Physical capability and endurance to conduct fieldwork in remote settings, including carrying 40 lbs. over rough terrain during long hikes.
 - Ability to swim 50 yards and stay afloat for at least five minutes.
 - Knowledge of the fundamentals of fish and wildlife management and ecology, and general concepts involved in the departmental assignment.

Desired Qualifications: Ideally, the successful applicants will also possess the following skills:

- Experience backpacking and multi-night camping at high elevations.
- General knowledge of California herpetofauna, particularly arid species.
- Experience conducting VES and/or CMR surveys for herpetofauna.
- Experience with threatened/endangered species, especially amphibians.
- Work experience with gill nets and backpack electroshockers.



Physical Demands: Field work involves extended travel with a heavy backpack through mountainous, high elevation terrain, both on trail and off trail. Days spent conducting amphibian surveys (the primary task of the job) involve wet wading; that is, navigating streams and shallows of ponds in shoes rather than waders. There is exposure to all types of weather, slippery rocks, insects (mosquitoes can be thick during early summer), poison oak, rough/fast-moving water, and cold water. Long periods of hiking, carrying equipment, swimming, and/or standing will be required.

Work Supplies: Work vehicles are provided for travel to/from field sites. Backpacking and camping gear is also provided. [Meal reimbursements are provided for all overnight backcountry travel.](#)

To apply: Please proceed to the Cal Careers URL below and follow the application instructions.

<https://calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=512784>

Application documents required when applying (via the link above):

- Completed California State Employment Application (Standard Form 678). **Although you must also submit a personal resume, you must ALSO completely fill out your experiences on the state application for (STD 678).**
- Resume.
- Also submit a Statement of Qualifications (up to two pages, 12-pt Arial font), answering the following questions. **Do not submit a generic cover letter. Specifically answer the following questions:**
 1. **Please explain why you are interested in this position, and what makes you a competitive candidate for the position. Please include any professional or personal experience, including the amount of time you have spent working in the field in remote settings, working with threatened and endangered species, live animal handling, collecting, analyzing, and reporting on scientific data, and/or working as part of a team in an outdoor setting.**
 2. **Those hired for the job will be backpacking into remote, high elevation areas. Trips will be 4–5 days in a row, occurring every week, for up to 5 months. Those hired will also often be working in and around water, including wet wading for amphibian monitoring. Please describe how your personal and professional experience has prepared you for this type of outdoor work. Please include the amount of time you have with each type of experience (e.g., the number of backpacking trips you have taken, the distances of those trips, and the elevations reached).**

Please Note: these positions are NOT the same as the Scientific Aide positions flying simultaneously (JC-512814), which are more frontcountry-based and focus specifically on Foothill Yellow-legged Frogs (FYLF). To be considered for both positions, applicants will need to apply for each separately.

Although you may submit application materials electronically or by certified mail, electronic submission is strongly preferred, and will result in more timely processing.

The deadline to apply for this announcement is Tuesday, April 7th, 2026.