Lake Tahoe Raptor Survey Field Technician

Job Code: 2016-RAP-048
Location: Tahoe Basin
State: Nevada
Program: Research Associate Program
Contract Length: 4 Months
Employer: Great Basin Institute, Nevada Department of Wildlife
Deadline: 5/2/2016
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Job Responsibilities:

In cooperation with the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), the Great Basin Institute is recruiting a Raptor Survey Field Technician (Field Technician) to assist with surveys of two sensitive raptor species, Northern Goshawk (Accipiter gentilis) and California Spotted Owl (Strix occidentalis occidentalis), in the east Lake Tahoe Basin, NV and adjacent areas of the Carson Range. The goal of this project is to detect nesting territories and monitor nest success, and the Field Technician and a Raptor Survey Field Lead will coordinate with NDOW on surveys and associated work. The majority of the survey effort will focus on the Northern Goshawk, with some Spotted Owl work interspersed throughout the field season.

Work will include:

• Broadcast surveys for Northern Goshawk and Spotted Owl
• Stand searches for Northern Goshawk and Spotted Owl
• Nest monitoring for Northern Goshawk and Spotted Owl
• Habitat evaluation and vegetation data collection
• Aspen stand inventory and mapping (as time allows)
• Assisting with other NDOW wildlife work (as time allows)

The Field Technician must be able to work in difficult terrain that may include steep, rocky slopes, areas of dense trees, and exposure to adverse weather. This work is physically demanding and requires long hours of off-trail hiking while conducting surveys. Goshawk surveys will be conducted at all hours of
day, and Spotted Owl surveys will be conducted at all hours of night. Overnight camping may be required in some cases.

Travel to survey sites may require driving on narrow, winding, dirt roads for distances up to 20 miles. While driving to and from survey sites, frequent encounters with vehicles, hikers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders should be expected on backcountry roads. Radio communication will be necessary for emergencies and for communication with the Project Manager.

Contract Timeline:
2 May - 12 August 2016 (15 weeks)
40 hours per week

Location:
Field work will be conducted in backcountry regions of the east Tahoe Basin, NV and adjacent areas of the Carson Range. Many recreational opportunities are available in the region, which is considered by many as among the most scenic in the country. Base of operations: Reno, NV.

Compensation and Benefits:
Living Allowance: $6,000
AmeriCorps Education Award*: $1,515
$15 field per diem (for up to 10 nights camping)
Housing stipend

*Education Award may be used for past, present or future education expenses, including payment of qualifying federal student loans. Loan forbearance and accrued interest payment on qualifying student loans is also available.

Job Qualifications:
Technical requirements:
• Bachelor’s degree or coursework and experience in biology (wildlife or conservation), ecology or related field;
• Experience in conducting avian surveys and nest monitoring preferred;
• Previous field experience that included: adhering to field data collection protocols, and accurately collecting and recording field data

• Experience in habitat evaluation and collection of vegetation data preferred;

• Ability to use a GPS unit for navigation and data collection;

• Familiarity with raptor species of the Sierra Nevada and their habitat preferred; and

• Familiarity with and/or interest in forest ecology, and avian ecology and conservation biology.

Additional requirements:

• Possess a valid, state-issued driver’s license and clean driving record;

• Ability to safely drive a 4WD vehicle on unpaved roads that can be steep and rutted;

• Ability to work productively, consistently and cooperatively as part of a team to accomplish mutual goals;

• Possess strong organizational skills;

• Ability to work in variable weather conditions, traverse uneven terrain, carry upwards of 20 pounds in a backpack, and otherwise maintain good physical condition;

• Willingness and ability to camp in remote areas;

• Familiarity with backcountry, low-impact principles preferred; and

• Meet AmeriCorps eligibility requirements:
  
  (1) U.S. citizenship or legal resident alien status;

  (2) Must be at least 17 years of age;

  (3) Received a high school diploma or GED (or be willing to achieve this before using education award);

  (4) Eligible to receive and AmeriCorps Education Award (limit of four in a lifetime or equivalent of 2 full-time awards);

  (5) Pass state and federal criminal background checks and a search of the National Sex Offender Public Website (NSPOW);

• Adhere to the rules, regulations and code of conduct as specified in the Member Service Agreement; and

• Will not engage in any prohibited activities as listed in the Member Service Agreement.