



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

POSITION DESCRIPTION

November 2005

Position Title:	Conservation Ecologist
Location:	San Francisco, CA
Position Classification:	Exempt Grade 5
Salary Range:	Competitive
Reporting Relationship:	Vice President, Ecology & Economics Research Department
Starting Date:	Immediately

Position Summary (General Description):

The Wilderness Society seeks an experienced conservation ecologist, with an ability to work in the nexus between public policy and science, to join our regional conservation team's efforts to protect California's wildlands. This is an exceptional opportunity for a conservation scientist interested in applying their scientific expertise to real world land management challenges. We seek an applied ecologist who can synthesize and analyze existing scientific information, develop new information, and translate these ideas into a format that will influence federal land management decisions in California. The primary goal of this position will be to strengthen conservation practices on federal lands managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. This position will be a critical part of our multidisciplinary team in California, providing the bedrock of our science-based advocacy, as well as serving as a senior member of our Ecology and Economics Research Department.

The ecologist will be involved in numerous aspects of The Wilderness Society's regional program, but project work will initially be centered on the development of ecological information needed to shape the Forest Service's decisions regarding off-road vehicle (ORV) management in the 19 California National Forests. The ecologist will lead the development of an ecological framework for evaluating ORV route systems, apply that framework in priority areas, and present those findings to the agency, elected officials, the public and the media in ways that positively influence Forest Service actions.

The Research Department has developed a number of tools that the ecologist can use, adapt, and modify for work on off-road vehicle issues in California. Working with our Center for Landscape Analyses, the ecologist will have the opportunity to quantify the ecological effects of ORV route systems and develop recommendations for closure and management. These tools have been applied to road systems elsewhere in the country and several reports can found at our web site:
<http://www.wilderness.org/Library/reports.cfm>

The ideal candidate has substantial scientific experience post graduate school, experience with land conservation issues and policies, expertise in California ecosystems, outstanding communication skills, and a proven ability to translate ecological information into public policy and land management recommendations. This is a senior science level position within The Wilderness Society and compensation is competitive with University and Governmental science programs.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

- Work closely with regional conservation staff to develop and integrate a scientific component into the campaign to influence ORV management in California National Forests;
- Design and develop scientific analyses that bring ecological information, including results from spatial analyses of routes, to bear on Forest Service management of ORVs and other critical ecological issues that affect wildland conservation;
- Develop scientific reports, white papers, peer-reviewed papers and science and policy briefs needed to build the scientific case for protection, restoration, and good stewardship of wildlands in California;
- Help develop policy recommendations based on scientific data;
- Analyze select federal land management plans, policies, and environmental impact statements to assess ecological impacts on California wildlands;
- Communicate research, analytical findings, and policy recommendations to government agencies, elected officials, conservation partners, and other audiences;
- Share scientific findings and related policy recommendations with the media in California and nationally;
- Where appropriate, use scientific research and information from California to help influence national level policy issues;
- Support development of funding proposals;
- Manage contract research, internships, and other means of augmenting analytical capacity; and
- Short-duration travel to attend meetings, give presentations, and visit specific project sites is required.

Qualifications:

- PhD in ecology, conservation biology, wildlife biology, forestry or landscape ecology or related field is required;
- Familiarity with California ecosystems;
- Working knowledge of how to use GIS for ecological analyses;
- Knowledge of conservation issues on western public lands and how these relate to natural resource management and federal public land policy is a plus;
- Understanding of federal environmental laws is helpful;
- Experience working with the media, elected officials, and the public is helpful;
- Exceptional communication skills and demonstrated ability to translate complex ecological information into terms that can be understood by a non-scientific audience;
- Ability to think strategically and participate in the development of conservation advocacy programs;
- Experience working in multi-disciplinary teams and with diverse groups in and outside the conservation community;
- Demonstrated ability to work independently, think creatively, and write convincingly; and
- Commitment to land conservation.

This position is available immediately and is located in our San Francisco office. **The Wilderness Society is an equal opportunity employer.** The Wilderness Society offers a competitive compensation and benefits package.

Application review will begin in mid-December and applications will be accepted through 30 December 2005. To apply please submit a cover letter explaining your qualifications for this position, resume, writing sample, and names, addresses, phone numbers of three references to: Ms. Geri Wardlow, Recruiting Consultant; 1615 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20036; fax #703-327-0415; email geriw@tws.org