



THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

POSITION DESCRIPTION

OCTOBER 2005

Position Title: Alaskan Ecologist

Location: Alaska Region (Anchorage Office)

Position Classification: Exempt/Grade 5

Salary Range: Competitive

Reporting Relationship: Vice President, Ecology & Economics Research

Start Date: Immediately

Position Summary:

The Wilderness Society is looking for a conservation Ecologist to work with our expanding conservation team in Alaska. We seek an applied ecologist who can synthesize existing information and develop new information critical for improving understanding and recommending land management and protection decisions in Alaska.

The Ecologist is responsible for designing, developing and implementing a program of ecological and conservation biology research in support of, and in collaboration with, The Wilderness Society's Alaska conservation campaigns. Major issues addressed include: identifying ecologically significant areas in need of protection, building the scientific justification for protection, and understanding and documenting current and future threats to ecosystem integrity. Initially, the primary focus will be on the Chugach National Forest and the Kenai Peninsula. If time permits, a secondary focus will be on National Wildlife Refuges (such as Yukon Flats) undergoing comprehensive conservation planning processes.

The Ecologist will also communicate information gained through this inquiry in written and oral forms to a variety of audiences, including decision-makers in management agencies, reporters and others in the media, conservation organizations and rural communities. Development of scientific reports, science and policy briefs, comment letters, and peer-reviewed journal articles are important products.

This person has the opportunity to develop some innovative research projects in collaboration with our Alaskan Resource Economist in Alaska.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

- Design, develop and implement research projects addressing ecological and conservation biology around public land management issues. The initial focus will be on using biological information to identifying ecologically significant areas in the Chugach and Kenai region that need higher levels of conservation protection and if time permits on National Wildlife Refuges;
- Synthesize existing scientific information in ways that are appropriate for conservation campaigns in Alaska;
- Analyze strategically chosen land management plans and policies and help develop comments on management plans, Environmental Assessments and Impact Statements;
- Actively participate in all aspects of project development and management, including drafting funding proposals, presenting proposals to foundations and individual donors, Where appropriate, use scientific research and information from Alaska to help influence national level policy issues;
- Communicate research and analytical findings to conservation, government and other audiences;
- Coordinate economic projects with multi-disciplinary regional campaign team, with other efforts within The Wilderness Society, and in collaboration with other organizations;
- Managing grants, and preparing project reports;
- Manage contract research, internships and other means of augmenting regional economic capacity.

Qualifications:

- Doctoral (strongly preferred) or master's degree in ecology, conservation biology, wildlife biology, or landscape ecology or related field required;
- Exceptional communication skills that show the ability to translate complex ecological information into a format that can be easily accessed, understood, and used by the conservation community, agency staff, media personnel, and the public;
- Knowledge of conservation issues on Alaskan public lands and how these relate to natural resource management and federal public land policy is helpful;
- Understanding of federal land management and federal environmental laws is helpful;
- Ability to think strategically and participate in the development of conservation programs essential;
- Working knowledge of how to apply GIS for ecological analyses needs, not necessarily able to do it independently.
- Experience collecting, processing and communicating quantitative information;
- 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 persuasively;
- Frequent, short-duration travel is required both in and out of the region.

The Wilderness Society is an equal opportunity employer. The Wilderness Society offers a competitive compensation and benefits package.

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; The Wilderness Society, 1615 M Street, NW Washington, DC 20036; fax #703-327-0415;email **geriw@tws.org**