

## Position Description

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Title: **Associate Curator of Wildlife**

Division: Wildlife

Classification: Full time

Reports To: Curator of Wildlife

Supervises: Seasonal wildlife specialists, interns, and volunteers

### High Desert Museum – Organization Description

The High Desert Museum is a non-profit organization focused on the biotic and cultural elements of the High Desert region of the Western United States. Located near Bend, Oregon, on the edge of the beautiful Deschutes National Forest, the Museum melds the natural history of diverse habitat types with human history of the environment into a unique blend of indoor and outdoor exhibits, living history and both living and historic collections.

### Job Summary – Associate Curator of Wildlife

We are seeking an Associate Curator of Wildlife to provide all aspects of program development, expertise, care, training, and support for live wildlife in exhibits. The successful candidate will have significant experience in avian, reptile, amphibian and/or mammal biology. Experience in caring for living collections in a captive setting is a requirement. In addition to performing departmental management of volunteers, the Associate Curator will conduct public education programs and must have excellent interpersonal, presentation, and written skills. The Associate Curator is responsible for delivering as many as 10 different wildlife programs each year, including programs with unrestrained mammals, flighted raptors, and live reptiles including snakes. Moreover, the Associate Curator will be responsible for maintaining natural exhibit integrity and collaborating on new exhibits and programs. A positive demeanor, high level of professionalism, and the ability to learn new skills quickly are essential traits. We look at each candidate in terms of combined skills; different combinations of skills can serve to qualify for the position.

### Required Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree in a biological science or related discipline
- Two years of experience in the animal field or an equivalent combination of education and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities
- Scholarship and interest in maintaining a detailed and current knowledge of the ecology, conservation and management of wildlife species in the High Desert
- Ability to interpret wildlife biology and natural history for the public with a dynamic and engaging presence
- Knowledge of husbandry, care, and associated standards for managing animals including freshwater aquariums and all aspects of herpetile care
- Experience with the construction and use of equipment associated with the safe handling of trained wildlife
- Understanding of basic animal training theory, with emphasis on operant learning and positive reinforcement techniques
- Preferred experience (wild and/or captive populations) working with reptiles (including venomous snakes and lizards), amphibians, fish, birds of prey, corvids, and/or mammals
- Interest/skills in captive management of animals for conservation and education and willingness to participate in AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums), USFWS (U.S. Fish &

Wildlife Services, USDA (United States Department of Agriculture), and ODFW (Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife) standards in a Museum setting

- Willingness to work with a variety of taxa including mammals, reptiles, fish, invertebrates and birds
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work both autonomously and in a positive team environment
- Ability to perform physical tasks including but not limited to, lifting 50 pounds, carrying, stooping, bending, extensive walking, crawling, climbing and working outside in the extreme weather conditions typical of Central Oregon
- Ability to work flexible hours and days, including weekends and holidays, as necessary

### Responsibilities and Tasks

1. Conducts daily care for animals including but not limited to, cleaning, feeding, watering, observing, record-keeping, maintaining enclosures and conducting facility opening and closing duties
2. Presents information with balanced perspectives in alignment with the Museum's mission
3. Conducts public educational programs with museum wildlife, including training and interpretation
4. Collaborates with curators on researching, planning, renovating and/or constructing of permanent and changing exhibits related to wildlife
5. Participates in the development of wildlife and education programs under the guidance of the Curator of Wildlife
6. Purchases and inventories feed and supplies as necessary
7. Works with Curator of Wildlife and contract veterinarians to provide appropriate level of veterinary care for animals
8. Supervises training of seasonal employees, interns, and teen and adult volunteers under the guidance of the Curator of Wildlife
9. Optimizes the use of volunteers in various areas of the department (husbandry, enrichment, programs, etc.) by identifying appropriate and engaging ways to involve, train, motivate and retain volunteers
10. Develops and participates in wildlife and education programs under the guidance of the Curator of Wildlife
11. Under the supervision of the Curator of Wildlife, plans and coordinates animal acquisition and disposition with the wildlife team for the living collection
12. Leads off-site wildlife field trips for the public
13. Complies with all Museum policies, procedures and safety regulations
14. Performs other tasks and duties as assigned by immediate supervisor

Please send resume and cover letter to the High Desert Museum, attention Shannon Campbell.

[scampbell@highdesertmuseum.org](mailto:scampbell@highdesertmuseum.org)

<http://highdesertmuseum.org/job-opportunities>

The High Desert Museum is an equal opportunity employer. All applicants will be considered for employment without attention to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, veteran or disability status.

## **Mission**

To explore the High Desert's unique landscape, cultures, wildlife, history and arts, connecting our visitors to the past and helping them discover their role in the present and responsibility to the future.