

Position Description

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

Since opening in 1982, THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM has brought together wildlife, culture, art and natural resources to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of North America's High Desert country. We do so through indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife in natural habitats, living history demonstrations and dynamic programs on a beautiful, 135-acre campus in the pine forest. The Museum is a nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums, was a 2018 National Medal for Museum and Library Sciences finalist and is a Smithsonian Affiliate. During the 2018-19 fiscal year, 195,000 visitors enjoyed the Museum.

The Museum is located in Bend, Oregon, a fast-growing, charismatic city nestled against the Cascade Range at the edge of the High Desert. We strive to be inclusive, culturally humble, relevant, curious and mindful. As a team, we work together to wildly excite and responsibly teach, creating connection to and dialogue about the High Desert.

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. This position adds an additional associate to our wildlife team. 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

- 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
- Experience with free flight of birds of prey and the use of radio telemetry
- Preferred experience (wild and/or captive populations) working with birds of prey, corvids, mammals, reptiles (including venomous snakes and lizards), amphibians, and/or fish
- 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. Embrace, support and help implement the Museum's continued learning and commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion
14. Execute other duties as assigned as needed to help abide by the Museum's values, drive our vision and fulfill our mission

The Museum provides an equal employment opportunity to all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/transgender status, age, disability, veteran or marital status, genetic information or any other characteristic protected by applicable law.

I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above job description in its entirety and am capable of performing all of the stated requirements.

Employee Signature

Date

Please send resume and cover letter to the High Desert Museum
jobs@highdesertmuseum.org
<http://highdesertmuseum.org/job-opportunities>