

## Wildlife Specialist

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Title:	Wildlife Specialist
Division:	Wildlife
Classification:	Salaried, regular full-time exempt
Reports To:	Curator of Wildlife
Supervises:	Interns and Volunteers
Salary:	\$40,000+ DOE

### *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- Wildlife Specialist*

We are seeking an individual to join the Museum team in caring for a diverse collection of animals and connecting Museum audiences to the High Desert region through dynamic programs. The Wildlife Specialist works as part of a team to deliver conservation-based programs with and without ambassador animals.

Importantly, we recognize and honor that the qualifications required to excel in this position can come from a range of both professional and lived experiences. Below we describe what we believe to be important qualifications for a candidate to have while remaining open to the diversity of experiences that can lead to these skill sets. Position descriptions are often presented in a way that leaves qualified candidates feeling unwelcome, intimidated, uncomfortable and/or unqualified to apply. Recognizing that, we strongly encourage anyone who feels passionate about this work and believes they have what it takes to thrive in this role to apply.

### *Qualifications*

- Associate's or bachelor's degree in a biological science or related discipline. Equivalent hands-on experience/knowledge may be considered in lieu of a degree.
- 3 years of experience in the animal field or an equivalent combination of education and/or experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities.
- Enthusiasm for learning about and staying current on wildlife history, biology, management and human relationships with the landscape of the High Desert region.
- Interest in interpreting wildlife biology, natural history and conservation for the public, and developing strong presentation techniques.
- Knowledge of husbandry, care and associated standards for managing mammals in human care.
- Understanding of basic animal training theory with emphasis on operant learning and positive reinforcement techniques.
- Preferred experience working with wildlife. Familiarity with mustelids, canids, felids and rodents is desirable (wild and/or captive populations).
- Willingness to participate in Association of Zoos and Aquariums, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, United States Department of Agriculture and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife standards in a Museum setting.
- Desire to work with a variety of taxa including reptiles, amphibians, fish, invertebrates, birds and mammals.
- Familiarity with basic tools for groundskeeping, construction of exhibit elements and use of equipment associated with the safe handling of trained wildlife.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work both autonomously and in a 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.
- Willingness to work flexible hours and days, including weekends and holidays, as necessary.

### *Responsibilities and Tasks*

1. Conducts all aspects of daily care for mammals and other wildlife, including but not limited to, cleaning, feeding, watering, observing, training, records-keeping, enclosure/habitat maintenance and facility opening and closing duties.
2. Develops and implements training plans for assigned animals to accomplish goals related to welfare, husbandry and responsible presentation under the supervision of the Curator of Wildlife.
3. Maintains wildlife exhibits with an emphasis on the health, welfare and safety of the animals that live there.

4. Conducts basic maintenance inside and outside of exhibits including but not limited to clearing brush, trimming trees, pulling weeds, watering, raking, shoveling, and snow and leaf removal.
5. Presents educational programs, with and without animal ambassadors, utilizing a holistic perspective in alignment with the Museum's mission.
6. Covers daily duties for coworkers in other areas of the department as necessary.
7. Works with seasonal employees, interns and volunteers on assigned projects.
8. In coordination with the Communications Team, represents the Museum as needed in a variety of mediums, including social media, print, photography and video, in materials produced by both the Museum and by journalists sharing the story of the Museum's work.
9. Embrace, support, and help implement the Museum's continued learning and commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion
10. 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.

### **Mission**

The High Desert Museum wildly excites and responsibly teaches through innovative, interdisciplinary experiences, creating connection to and dialogue about the High Desert

Please send resume and cover letter to the High Desert Museum  
[jobs@highdesertmuseum.org](mailto:jobs@highdesertmuseum.org)