

# JOB DESCRIPTION

# HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

## POSITION

JOB TITLE:	Wildlife Specialist
DEPARTMENT:	Wildlife
CLASSIFICATION:	Full-time, exempt

DIRECT SUPPORTS:	Curator of Wildlife
DIRECTLY SUPPORTS:	N/A
SALARY RANGE:	\$48,000+ DOE

## JOB SUMMARY

The person in this position is responsible for birds on static exhibit including eagles, hawks, and owls. Wildlife Specialists are responsible for the safety, well-being, and exhibition of wildlife in human care. Experience with animal husbandry, training, and handling is essential. Conducts public programs with ambassador animals, delivers engaging interpretive talks on natural history, and works across taxa throughout the department in support of animal welfare.

## ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (in order of priority with the percentage of time spent on each)

60%	<b>Animal Welfare</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conducts daily husbandry tasks including but not limited to, cleaning, diet preparation, feeding, watering, observing, training, records-keeping, enclosure/habitat maintenance and facility opening and closing duties</li><li>In collaboration with the Senior Wildlife Specialist, develops and implements training and enrichment plans for assigned animals to accomplish goals related to welfare, husbandry, and responsible presentation of wildlife</li><li>Inventories feed and supplies, as necessary</li><li>Maintains equipment, support facilities, and keeps work areas clean and organized</li></ul>
20%	<b>Wildlife Programs</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collaborates on the development of conservation focused interpretive programs under the guidance of the Curator of Wildlife and Education Department</li><li>Interprets the natural history of the high desert region for museum visitors through both scheduled daily talks and informal opportunities to engage with guests</li><li>Presents or supports the presentation of raptor free-flight and other live-animal programming utilizing a holistic perspective in alignment with the Museum's mission</li></ul>
10%	<b>Exhibit Maintenance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collaborates with curators on researching, planning, renovating and/or constructing of permanent and changing exhibits related to wildlife, and/or development of new exhibit elements</li><li>Maintains wildlife exhibits with an emphasis on the health, welfare, and safety of the animals that live there</li><li>Conducts basic maintenance inside and outside of exhibits including but not limited to clearing brush, trimming trees, watering, raking, shoveling, and snow and leaf removal</li></ul>
10%	<b>Additional Duties</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Complies with all Museum policies, procedures, and safety regulations.</li><li>Embraces, supports, and helps implement the Museum's continued learning and commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion</li><li>Contributes to and supports the Museum's AZA accreditation process</li><li>Assists with training of seasonal employees, interns, and volunteers under the guidance of the Senior Wildlife Specialist</li></ul>

- Assist with museum-wide events, such as Free Days, fundraising gala, etc.
- Other duties as assigned

## QUALIFICATIONS

### EDUCATION/ CERTIFICATIONS

- Associate or bachelor's degree in biological science or related discipline. Equivalent hands-on work experience/knowledge may be considered in lieu of a degree
- Certified Interpretive Guide Certification preferred

### EXPERIENCE

- 2 years progressive experience working with animals in human care in a zoological setting
- Preferred experience working with wildlife. Familiarity with birds of prey is desirable (wild and/or captive populations)

### SKILLS/ ABILITIES

- Enthusiasm for learning about and staying current on all aspects of wildlife and human relationships with the landscape of the High Desert region
- Ability to interpret wildlife biology, natural history, and conservation for the public
- Knowledge of husbandry and associated standards for managing wildlife in human care
- Understanding of basic animal training theory, with emphasis on operant learning and positive reinforcement techniques
- Willingness to take part 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 but not limited to, reptiles, 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
- Ability to follow specific oral and written instructions.
- Ability to communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Excellent people skills and ability to establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with colleagues and coworkers.
- Able to work both autonomously and in a team environment
- Willingness to work flexible hours and days, including weekends and holidays, as necessary

### PHYSICAL ELEMENTS

- Ability to perform physical tasks including but not limited to, lifting fifty pounds, carrying, stooping, bending, extensive walking, crawling, climbing, and working outside in the extreme weather conditions typical of Central Oregon, occasionally with minimal to no PPE when deemed necessary for safety

### EQUIPMENT USE

- Computer and phone use. Light power tools

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

*I acknowledge that I have read and understand the above job description in its entirety and can perform all the stated requirements.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Employee Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date