



Job Description Wildlife Technician

Pay Rate: \$18/hour

Hours worked: 20-29 hours/week

Type of Position: Part-time, Temporary

Dates of employment: March to August 2026

Supervisor: Verenice Sanchez (in partnership with Micah Ashford, USFWS)

FLSA Status: Non-exempt

Summary: Friends of the Dunes, a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is seeking two Wildlife Technicians to contribute to the Western snowy plover monitoring project alongside Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office (AFWO) Staff.

Job Responsibilities

Duties for this position include:

- Conducting breeding season surveys of the federally threatened distinct population segment of Western snowy plover (*Charadrius nivosus nivosus*), which involves estimating the population of breeding adults, recording color band combinations of individual plovers, locating nests, recording nest fates, and observing chicks through fledging.
- Collection, analysis and management of data.
- Assisting with the creation of a range-wide western snowy plover database.
- Traveling throughout Humboldt County to conduct surveys.
- Assisting other departments with their projects on fish, butterfly, coastal marten, and other species.
- Participating in community outreach efforts focused on the conservation of western snowy plovers and other local threatened and endangered species, including tabling at community events.

Schedule: Duties will primarily be carried out Monday through Friday. Surveys are typically conducted early mornings. Bi-weekly totals should not exceed 58 hours. A flexible work schedule may be required, which could involve work performed outside of normal work hours, including on weekends and/or holidays. Time off may be granted and requests should be directed to Friends of the Dunes and AFWO for approval.

Required Qualifications

Candidates should have:

- Members must be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident, as required by U.S. government contracts.
- Willing and able to represent Friends of the Dunes and the partner organization in a professional, positive, and enthusiastic manner.
- Ability to be both self-directed/work alone, and be a positive, contributing member of a group.
- A valid driver's license and an insurable driving record (documentation to be provided upon request).



Job Description Wildlife Technician

- Willing to undergo and must pass the required criminal history checks.
- Ability to perform the essential duties of the position with or without reasonable accommodation.
- Ability to walk long distances in beach habitat with field gear in adverse weather conditions such as high winds and rain.
- Strong attention to detail.
- Ability to work well in small teams.

Preferred Qualifications

- Competitive applicants for this position can hold or be pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Biology, Wildlife, or Natural Resources, and/or have relevant experience in subject areas such as wildlife conservation.
- Experience with GIS/GPS.
- Ability to count large bird flocks.
- Ability to identify shore birds and local plant species.
- Database management experience.
- Deep interest in wildlife conservation and endangered species recovery.

Preferred Competencies

The Wildlife Technician should believe in and represent Friends of the Dunes' mission of conserving the natural diversity of coastal environments through community-supported education and stewardship programs.

The Wildlife Technician must be willing to spend a majority of their work schedule outside in coastal environments, which have seasonal challenges, including rain, sun, ticks, and mosquitos. Some of the work will take place in an office setting inside the Humboldt Coastal Nature Center, or at the Arcata U.S. Fish and Wildlife Office.

Physical Demand

- Physical Demands: Requires frequent sitting, standing, walking, hiking, carrying, using hands to handle or feel, reaching with hands and arms, talking and hearing. Ability to hike over rough terrain, often in soft sand
- Vision Requirements: Requires close, distance, peripheral and depth perception vision as well as the ability to focus. Excellent color vision is required.
- Weight Lifted or Force Exerted: Frequently moves 50 lbs., ability to move up to 60 pounds.
- Environmental: Outdoor and indoor conditions. Work environment conditions can change frequently; working under adverse weather conditions and in various climates.
- Noise Environment: Moderate noise such as in a business office with equipment and light visitation.
- Travel: This position may require domestic travel.



Job Description Wildlife Technician

Work Environment

Friends of the Dunes

Friends of the Dunes has a small, hard-working staff that is passionate about our mission. Our programs are supported by dedicated community volunteers who are the heart of the organization. We value collaboration and work very closely with each other, community partners, land management agencies, and local municipalities.

Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office

The Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office (AFWO) is a field office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Their work in northern California includes scientific assessments, habitat restoration, and conservation of listed species. Their work spans the beautiful towering redwoods of northwestern California, the foggy shores of the Pacific, and includes majestic watersheds such as the Klamath River.

The AFWO staff consists of fisheries and wildlife biologists, technicians, and support personnel who conduct a variety of conservation activities applicable to Northwest California. AFWO's diverse workload includes field research and monitoring, regulatory and advisory roles in various federal agencies, habitat conservation planning on non federal lands, permit review, and many other biological related activities.

How to Apply

Send a single PDF document containing a cover letter, resume, and the names and contact information of two references to info@friendsofthedunes.org by midnight **February 26, 2026**. Applications will be reviewed as they are received.