

Winter Field Technician – Northern Idaho Dworshak Reservoir, Grandad Elk Mitigation Area



Applications being reviewed immediately, in the order at which they are received.

Position looking to be filled ASAP (prior to last date to apply), so don't wait to apply!

Agency: University of Idaho

Location: Elk River, Idaho

Salary: \$12/hour (plus housing available; see details below)

Employment dates: January 1 - March 31, 2023, but dates are flexible.

Last Date to Apply: January 1, 2023

Job Description: The University of Idaho and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) – Dworshak Project are collaboratively seeking a 2-month seasonal winter field technician. This position involves working closely and remotely with the graduate student on the Grandad Elk Mitigation Area to conduct winter browse surveys for elk and other big game species and requires winter backcountry and/or snowmobile experience. The work will consist of trailering snowmachines from the University of Idaho to the closest town (Elk River, Idaho; 60-miles) and using snowmobiles and sleds with gear to travel to the remote USACE administrative site, the Long Creek Work Center (30-miles). From the Work Center, snowmachines and/or tracked ATVs will be used to traverse roads where possible, and over-snow-hiking with snowshoes or cross-country skis will be required to get to remote survey sites. Work will be physically demanding, sometimes involving long treks in the snow to arrive at winter browse survey sites. Expected field stints will be 5-7 consecutive days at a time.

Position duties will include assisting the graduate student: (1) perform winter equipment operation and maintenance, (3) winter browse vegetation surveys, (4) monitoring trail cameras, (4) conducting big game observation surveys, and (5) other duties as assigned.

Provided Gear/ Housing/ Safety Measures: This site (and the site in general) is VERY remote, with no cell service once you leave town (Moscow or Elk River, Idaho). Safety gear and winter first-aid kits will be provided. USACE will provide a satellite phone and handheld radio, and the team is required to carry at all times while in on-duty. A Garmin inReach is also provided by the University of Idaho.

On-duty housing will be provided at the Work Center. The graduate student and technician will be living in the remote 2-bedroom, manufactured home with bunks or cots. Due to it being winter, there will not be running water, but a kitchen, heat, and electricity is operational by propane or backup gas-powered generator. Off-duty housing can be arranged, but travel to and from the University using your personal vehicle would be required (50-miles).

Required Gear: The successful applicant must provide their own food and personal winter gear (e.g., appropriate clothes, boots, gloves, etc.) adequate for the safety and comfort required for this remote winter position.

Qualifications: Applicants must have previous winter backcountry experience, preferably with snow machines and/or tracked machines (ATVs). The ideal applicant would provide proof of mechanical skills (truck, trailer, ATV and/or snow machine) and safety training (e.g., backcountry wilderness, winter survival, ATV and/or snowmobile safety certification, cold stress, general first aid, etc.) within their application. Though we will be conducting browse surveys, plant ID skills would be helpful, but not completely necessary. We are more interested in applicants that have backcountry experience in the winter, and that are comfortable working remotely. A positive attitude and problem-solving skills are critical, as this work will be physically demanding and difficult due to remoteness and steep, rugged terrain and potentially adverse weather conditions. Snowfall can vary from 3-5ft on the Elk Mitigation Area and weather conditions can change drastically in an instant. We have strict safety protocols in place, but again, the field site is very remote, and it could take hours before help is to arrive.

******* HOW TO APPLY *******

To apply, e-mail a cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references in a single PDF file named “LastNameFirstName_WinterTechApplicant” to:

Sarah Meronk at **smeronk@uidaho.edu**.

**Please do not wait to send your application in! This position looking to be filled immediately. We will begin reviewing applications immediately, in the order they are received.*

Contact Information:

PRIMARY CONTACT – *to apply* and address job/research-specific questions:

Sarah Meronk

Dworshak Reservoir Elk Graduate Student

E-mail: smeronk@uidaho.edu

SECONDARY CONTACT – for questions regarding potential provided housing (in Ahsahka or Lenore, Idaho), and general Dworshak Project/Elk Mitigation questions:

Brandi Felts, USACE - Dworshak Project Wildlife Biologist

Cell: (208) 848-6782; Office: (208) 476-1203; Email: brandi.l.felts@usace.army.mil



