

Job Type: Volunteer - Temporary

Location: Laysan Island

Closing Date: Jan 14

Description:

US Fish and Wildlife is seeking two volunteers for the summer field season on Laysan Island (APPROXIMATELY March-September 2011). Laysan Island is a part of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) and is located about 900 miles Northwest of O'ahu, Laysan Island is home to ~ 1 million seabirds, and endemic species such as the Laysan Finch, the Laysan Duck and *Cyperus pennatiformis* var. *bryanii*. The Laysan Duck is critically endangered and is restricted to Laysan Island as well as a translocated population on Midway. The current population on Laysan is around 500 individuals, and threats to this species warrant monitoring of population status, causes of mortality and reproductive success.

As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to travel into and live in a remote setting in the monument. You will be surrounded by birds, sea life, and native vegetation on an island frequently referred to as the "jewel" of PMNM. Laysan is a remote site, and is approximately 1000 acres. On the island the only transportation is walking, and living conditions consist of an 8x10 weatherport tent for personal use, and several 16x20 tents for communal/food storage and prep/working. Contact with the field site is limited to text only e-mail with no internet. Laysan is reached by 3-4 day boat ride from Honolulu with only one boat in (March) and one boat out (September). Additionally there is a required quarantine for the island, all "soft" (clothing, shoes, straps etc...) items must be purchased new (never used before) and frozen for 48 hours prior to departure to Laysan. "Hard" items (cameras, musical instruments, etc...) will be inspected thoroughly and frozen or bug bombed prior to departure. The purpose of the quarantine is to prevent introductions of new species. For more information on Laysan Island see

<http://papahānaumokuākea.gov/about/laysan.html> The primary goal of the Laysan Restoration is to return Laysan Island to a "Pristine" state. For more info see the Laysan Island Restoration Plan (<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~conant/laysan.res.plan.pdf>) .

Volunteers are expected to work 40 hours/week this does not necessarily mean 8-5 M-F, but may also include evenings and weekends. Primary responsibilities include; Invasive plant monitoring and removal (majority of the time is spent working with invasive), Native plant propagation, Bird surveys including Laysan Duck monitoring and Laysan Finch Surveys, Vegetation surveys, Green sea turtle nest monitoring, Entomological surveys, Data collection and management, weekly and summary reporting. Additionally volunteers will be expected to help with regular camp maintenance and chores.

Prior experience in the following is recommended: Invasive species control, Waterfowl surveys, Aerial reproductive monitoring, Color band resight and Spotting Scope use, Shorebird and seabird monitoring and identification, identification of birds by call , GPS use, Data management, Excel and ArcGIS

Requirements: Must be able to walk 10 miles per day, lift 50 lbs , have full color eyesight correctable to 20/20. Laysan is accessible only by ship which takes a minimum of 4 days to reach from Honolulu Hawaii. Medical assistance is limited to a 24 hour call in medical consultation service and a quantity limited medical kit on Laysan. Good health and fitness is a must for Laysan due to the remoteness of island and time required to receive medical assistance.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide: Housing and a living allowance while in Honolulu, Transportation between Honolulu and Laysan, reimbursement for Quarantine clothes, and food while you are on the Laysan.

To apply please send Cover Letter, Resume **including at least three references**, and Transcripts.

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