• **Job Title:** Wildlife/Bat Biologist

Added here on 5 Apr 2012

**Job Type:** full-time temporary position

**Opportunity location:** The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) comprises

**Closing date (if specified):** 10 May 2012

**Opportunity Description:**

Nature of Work and Duties: The Mariana fruit bat (Pteropus mariannus mariannus), locally known as the fanihi, is a traditional game species that is endemic to the Mariana Islands and has been federally listed as threatened since 2005. Hunting and habitat loss are the two main factors contributing to the population’s decline. Continued monitoring of fruit bat populations on Rota and throughout the archipelago is necessary to understand and predict long term population trends. Such monitoring is essential to provide baseline information for recovery of the fruit bat as outlined in the recently released Draft Recovery Plan for the species. Further research on life history is also necessary and includes such topics as colony responses to disturbance, juvenile and adult mortality, and recruitment. Other aspects of fruit bat work on Rota include public education, rehabilitation of orphaned and injured fruit bats for release back to the wild, and radio tracking released individuals to determine reintroduction success and to document habitat use.

The Wildlife/Bat Biologist will also serve as the primary representative of DFW on Rota and will act in the best interests of the agency. The position will oversee all daily operations of the office under the direction and guidance of the Wildlife Section Supervisor on Saipan and will directly supervise up to two local Wildlife Technicians.

Specific duties of the Rota Wildlife/Bat Biologist will include:

• Inventory and monitor wildlife and their habitats with an emphasis on Mariana fruit bats on Rota and throughout the CNMI.
• Develop and implement field investigations, monitoring protocols, and standard operating procedures to examine fruit bat population trends and demographics, habitat use, and other inventory and monitoring activities.
• Design and conduct research that evaluate potential impacts of environmental and human-induced stressors on fruit bats and their habitats, and provide recommendations for their protection to local, state, and federal stakeholders.
• Facilitate compliance with Section 7 and Section 10 of the ESA by supervising development site assessments on Rota (in coordination with the Conservation/Permits Biologist on Saipan), and by providing technical advice regarding requirements for rare and listed species on the island.
• Direct and evaluate the work of one, and possibly two, Wildlife Technicians on Rota, whose duties include surveys of upland birds and seabirds as well as wildlife assessments on land proposed for development.
• Develop objectives, budgets, and federal aid grant proposals and annual reports and perform analyses for all fruit bat related research and monitoring in the CNMI conducted by DFW.
• Use ArcGIS as needed to define and map available day-roosting and other habitat for fruit bats on Rota.
• Hand-rear orphaned fruit bat pups and rehabilitate injured individuals for future release. Upon release, track bats using radio-telemetry to monitor their success and document their habitat use.
• Develop education and outreach programs for local schools and the public.

Qualifications: Overall, we’re looking for a candidate that is committed, adaptable, patient, and well-rounded professionally. Functionally, CNMI DFW is much like any state wildlife agency and/or office found in the mainland U.S. However, in the CNMI there is great potential to do valuable conservation work with species and in an area that are relatively understudied.

The Wildlife/Bat Biologist position requires at least a Bachelor’s degree in wildlife biology, ecology, ornithology, zoology, mammalogy, or another closely related field, and at least three years of applicable field experience. Preferred candidates will hold a Master’s degree in a related field and have experience with bat research and/or population monitoring, GIS, public relations, working in multicultural communities, Microsoft computer software applications, and excellent writing and communication skills. Experience in a broad spectrum of wildlife and habitat surveys including avian, bat, and vegetation is a plus. The successful candidate for this position will be a team player while still maintaining their independence and demonstrating initiative. Flexibility, patience, and tolerance are essential in a multicultural community like that of the CNMI. This position does require occasional travel, and work in the field can be strenuous in hot and humid conditions.

Eligibility and Appointment: Only United States Citizens or legal U.S. residents can be considered for this position – If you are neither, please do not apply. This is a one year term appointment renewable upon mutual consent. Salary: ~$38,000 commensurate with experience. Travel and limited relocation expenses will be paid.

For more info, contact:

Please send cover letter and CV or Resume and references via email to Paul Radley at paulradleycnmidfw@gmail.com, or via fax at 670.664.6060. Please contact Paul Radley if you are unable to submit electronically at 670.664.6011 or 664.6000.

Our Opportunity ID: 20321