Invasive Plant Volunteer for East and Tern Islands, French Frigate Shoals (Fall/Winter)

Aloha!

The US Fish and Wildlife Service is currently seeking one volunteer to work at French Frigate Shoals from October-March this year. The incumbent’s primary duty will be to continue an invasive plant eradication program on East Island, but will assist with seabird monitoring, maintenance, and native plant propagation efforts on Tern Island, as time allows. East Island is approximately 45 minutes from Tern Island by small boat and is the only other vegetated island in the atoll. East Island is the primary nesting area for Hawaiian green sea turtles and is also habitat for Hawaiian monk seals, Laysan and black-footed albatrosses, and a number of other seabird species.

The two plants of interest are sandbur (*Cenchrus echinatus*), an invasive annual grass, and sow thistle (*Sonchus oleraceus*). Efforts to control and eliminate both species from East Island and prevent their establishment on Tern Island were begun in April of 2012 and will continue until the plants are no longer present. The incumbent will receive assistance with hand-pulling efforts and transport logistics from refuge staff and the other Tern volunteers, but will assume leadership of the project for the fall and winter season.

**Primary responsibilities include:**
Hand-pulling sandbur and sow thistle and ensuring proper weed disposal;
Maintaining a weeding schedule and work plan that ensures that no plants set seed;
Keeping detailed and organized records of work performed, monitoring plant phenology and distribution on East;
Ensuring that quarantine protocols for travel between East and Tern Island are followed;
Assisting with boat maintenance and operation (if qualified);

**Secondary responsibilities:**
Continuing native plant propagation efforts on Tern Island, focused primarily on Naupaka seedlings and cuttings, and maintaining plant protection fences on out-planted areas of Tern Island;
Assisting with seabird monitoring on Tern and other islands in the atoll, participating in annual albatross counts for a long-term demographic monitoring project;
Assisting with field station maintenance

**Minimum qualifications:**
Ability to harmoniously co-exist with a small group of people on a tiny, remote island for an extended period of time;
Strong swimming ability;
Experience with invasive plant control and/or native plant propagation and outplanting;
Ability to work outdoors in sun, wind, or rain for extended periods of time, ability to lift up to 50 pounds at a time

**Desired qualifications:**
Experience using handheld GPS units to track the distribution of invasive species, experience using GIS software (ArcView, ArcGIS);
Boating skills and Department of Interior Motor Boat Operator Certification

The selected applicant will need to be in Honolulu no later than September 24 for pre-deployment supply shopping, packing, and other logistics. Because of the extreme remoteness of the duty station, only applicants available for the entire 6 month period (late September through March) will be considered. Food and housing is provided in Honolulu and on Tern Island once
you arrive.

To apply please send a resume and list of at least three professional references to:

Meg Duhr-Schultz, Acting Manager
Tern Island Field Station, French Frigate Shoals
Hawaiian Islands National Wildlife Refuge
Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-307
Honolulu, HI 96850

Meg_duhrsultz@fws.gov

Only electronic applications will be considered. Due to the tight schedule, applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis.