

Location:

Laysan Island, NW Hawaiian Islands

Duration:

6 – 8 months (mid-February to October)

Job Type:

Volunteer

Application Deadline:

2/15/2013

Job Description:

Description: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking 1-2 volunteers for the summer 2013 field season on Laysan Island. Laysan Island is a 1000 acre coralline island located about 900 miles northwest of O'ahu. The island is frequently referred to as the "jewel" of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. This amazing island hosts ~ 1 million seabirds and endemic avian, plant, and marine species such as the endangered Laysan finch, Laysan duck, Nihoa Millerbird, green sea turtle, and Hawaiian monk seal. Often referred to as the "jewel" of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, Laysan Island is also considered to be among the most intact terrestrial ecosystems in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the only island with an inland lake. As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to travel to and live in this remote setting. Primary responsibilities of the Summer Tour include: Invasive plant monitoring and removal (majority of the time is spent working with invasive plants), native plant propagation, monitoring reproductive success of Laysan and black-footed albatross, banding albatross chicks, multiple surveys including Laysan duck monitoring and Laysan finch surveys, vegetation surveys, green sea turtle nest monitoring, entomological surveys, data collection and management, and weekly and summary reporting. Additionally, volunteers will be expected to help with regular camp maintenance and chores. Additional information: In an effort to prevent the introduction of non-native species, the USFWS enforces a quarantine procedure for all items to be transported to the island. As part of this quarantine, all "soft" items (clothing, shoes, straps, etc.) must be purchased new and frozen 48 hours prior to departure to Laysan. All "hard" items (cameras, musical instrumental, snorkeling gear, etc.) may either be inspected and cleaned thoroughly and frozen or bug-bombed prior to departure. Laysan is a remote site, only accessible by ship. It is a four day ship ride from Oahu to Laysan. On the island, all transportation is by foot. Living conditions consist of an 8'x10' weatherport tent for personal use, and several 16'x20' tents for communal/food storage and prep/working. Personal communications from the field are limited to "text only" e-mail (no internet). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide: Housing and a living stipend while in Honolulu, transportation between Honolulu and Laysan, a stipend for quarantine clothes, and food and housing while on Laysan.

To Apply:

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and at least three references to: MICHELE KUTER (EM: Michele_Kuter@fws.gov). For more information on Laysan Island see <http://papahānaumokuākea.gov/about/laysan.html>. Closing Date: February 15, 2013. Applications will be evaluated as they are received, and these positions may be filled before the closing date.

Qualifications:

Requirements: Must be able to commit to the entire Tour duration: Ability to work well with a small team in a professional and safe manner and be flexible upon work assignments; walk 10 miles per day; lift 50 lbs; able to swim well in ocean conditions; capable of identifying birds by call; comfortable with herbicide use; have full color eyesight correctable to 20/20; and have a valid passport not to expire before end of tour. Volunteers are expected to work 44 hours/week. However, this does not necessarily mean 8-5 M-F, but may also include evenings and weekends. Prior experience in the following is preferred but not necessarily required: Invasive species control and mapping, native plant propagation, waterfowl surveys, monitoring avian reproductive success, color-band resight and spotting scope use, shorebird and seabird monitoring and identification, data management, and familiarity with Word, Excel, ArcGIS, and GPS units.

Number of Openings:

1-2