



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Volunteer Position Description

The mission of the Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Position Title: Volunteer Preserve Caretaker (couples welcome to apply)
Location: Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, Wallowa County
Term: September 1 – October 1, 2019 (2-4 week term)
Report to: Mike Beachy, Zumwalt Preserve Steward

Position Summary: The Zumwalt Prairie Preserve, in Northeast Oregon, is 33,000 acres with elevations ranging from 2,000 feet in the canyons to 5,500 feet at the top of Harsin butte. The Preserve is part of the largest remaining intact Pacific Northwest bunchgrass prairie in North America and is managed and studied as a working landscape to maintain the biodiversity which thrives here. This includes collaborative research projects, the reintroduction of fire, carefully managed grazing, wildlife habitat enhancement, and public outreach activities. The Preserve Caretaker will act as an on-site representative for The Nature Conservancy providing information about the preserve to visitors, collect public use data, and conduct facility maintenance and stewardship activities.

Duties:

- Required to live on the preserve, either in a historic remodeled house, or in a self-provided travel trailer or motor-home. We strongly prefer that the caretaker live on site for at least 5 nights per week, and especially over weekends. The site is off the grid with solar/generator electricity, indoor kitchen with gas appliances, hot running water and propane heat. No cell phone coverage or internet is available at the site.
- Read and study provided materials and consult with local staff to gain an understanding of The Nature Conservancy's mission and provide accurate information about our Zumwalt program to visitors.
- Report infrastructure repair needs to stewardship staff. As able, perform facility repairs and maintenance (this may include carpentry, plumbing, painting and cleaning projects).
- Assist with maintaining public-use trails, fences, and water troughs.
- Collect public-use data to better understand visitation levels and patterns.
- Make rounds to public use areas to interact with visiting public. Ensure availability of informational documents at the informational kiosk.
- Manually control non-native plants under the direction of stewardship staff.
- Assist with monitoring for trespass and other unauthorized public-use during hunting seasons beginning in early September.
- Assist with planning and coordinating for volunteer work parties as needed.

- Report to Conservancy staff on a regular basis via 2-way radio or cell phone.
- Additional projects may be assigned based on opportunities and individual skills and interests.

Requirements:

- Ability to live and work independently in a remote location.
- Enthusiasm.
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, including ability to interact positively with staff, public, and neighbors.
- Ability to operate hand and power tools safely; basic carpentry and plumbing skills preferred.
- Physical ability to hike over steep and uneven terrain, often with several hundred feet elevation change in hot or cold climactic conditions.
- Provide reliable transportation to and from the preserve (4-wheel or AWD vehicles are recommended); must have current driver's license and be age 21 or over.
- First aid and CPR certification or willingness to obtain preferred.
- Provide miscellaneous personal supplies and food.

Time commitment: 20 hours per week (plus sleeping overnight on the preserve) for a minimum of 2-4 weeks during the period from September 1st to Oct 1st, 2019.

Support provided: The Nature Conservancy will provide off grid housing (water and limited electricity for travel trailer or motor home), including kitchen and showers. Personal vehicle use reimbursement will be available based on mileage while performing preserve projects. A manual drive flat-bed pick-up truck is also available for caretaker use while working on preserve projects. Tools, equipment and supplies will be provided to complete preserve projects. Conservancy staff will be available to provide direction and assistance when needed. A two-way radio will be provided for communications with local staff.

Benefits:

- The opportunity to live and work in one of the most beautiful areas of Oregon.
- The opportunity to observe a wide variety of native plants and wildlife, and to work for their benefit.
- Experience working with The Nature Conservancy and the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of Conservancy projects in NE Oregon.

Contact us to learn more about how to apply:

orvolunteers@tnc.org or 503-802-8100