



**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT: WILDLIFE FIELD TECHNICIAN
BEAVER CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROJECT:
CLARK FORK COALITION, MISSOULA, MT**

March 25, 2019

Seasonal Full-time: 40 hours/week, May-October, 2019

ABOUT THE CLARK FORK COALITION: Founded in 1985, the Clark Fork Coalition is a vibrant conservation nonprofit dedicated to building a healthier Clark Fork watershed through science-based advocacy, energetic public outreach, and diverse partnerships in on-the-ground restoration. Our work is conducted by a staff of 13 based out of a main office in Missoula, MT and a ranch office near Deer Lodge, MT. The Coalition has a 15-person board of directors, with membership support delivered by 2,700 citizens basin-wide.

Introduction: Beavers can provide tremendous ecological benefits to our watersheds, but are often considered a nuisance, due to their tendency to dam up road culverts and irrigation systems, or cut trees. Through this project, the Clark Fork Coalition, with Defenders of Wildlife (DOW) and National Wildlife Federation (NWF), will launch a pilot project to test and demonstrate non-lethal conflict resolution methods for beavers on the western Montana landscape. We will work with watershed groups, landowners, agency partners and land trusts.

The goals of this project are to build greater tolerance for beavers on our landscape; reduce beaver problems via non-lethal methods; and educate our partners about how to reduce beaver-related conflicts. **Our objectives** are to: 1) build a cost-share and technical assistance pilot program for landowners who experience beaver-related problems; 2) train local partners in how to assess beaver-related problems and address them with non-lethal solutions; 3) develop a strong working relationship with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), as a basis for a broader, longer-term beaver conflict resolution program linked to larger scale beaver restoration goals.

The Clark Fork Coalition (CFC) will hire a Beaver Conflict Resolution Field Technician (“Beaver Tech”) as a seasonal employee in 2019, the pilot year of this project. We are looking for an energetic, practical, independent “Beaver Tech” to run this pilot program. The “Beaver Tech” will work under the supervision of the CFC Restoration Director, and be based out of the offices of the CFC in Missoula, MT. The “Beaver Tech” will be required to use their own vehicle to mobilize to the field (compensated at Federal travel rate per mile), travel extensively, and work alone in remote locations around western Montana. The “Beaver Tech” will work independently, and be expected to take full responsibility for all outreach, coordination and field work required of this position, per the tasks described below.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- 1) Assess the magnitude, severity and geography of the beaver conflict issue in MT Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) Region 2 (Clark Fork basin outside Flathead) by interviews and extensive field

work. Use prior research done by partner organizations (land trusts, conservation districts, trapper information, FWP).

- 2) Organize and execute several demonstration project sites for non-lethal beaver damage control early in the process, using tips from partner organizations. Bring in expertise as required to build the demonstration projects. Organize tours to see demonstration projects.
- 3) Organize training courses for partner organizations, including watershed groups and land trusts. Use guest instructors as needed. Course topics will include beaver biology, and include “how-to” for basic beaver conflict resolution techniques.
- 4) Establish a strong partnership with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks personnel. Work persistently to improve communication and build trust between partner organizations and FWP.
- 5) Design and establish a pilot cost-share program to incentivize participation in non-lethal methods of beaver damage mitigation. Learn to build and deploy effective methods to mitigate beaver damage (beaver deceiver culvert protection, pond levelers, tree-protectors). Estimate construction costs for these solutions. Develop simple cost-sharing agreements for use with private landowners. Model the program, as possible, on other wildlife damage programs.
- 6) Attend Clark Fork Coalition monthly staff meetings, be available to assist on CFC team activities, and represent and support the Clark Fork Coalition’s mission and values.

SCHEDULE: The Beaver Conflict Resolution Field Technician will work eight hours a day, five days a week, from early May until late October, 2019.

SALARY: The position will be compensated at \$20/hr., with travel to field in own vehicle being paid per mile at the Federal travel rate (\$0.58/mile). Position does not include any per diem.

LOCATION: The Clark Fork Coalition office in Missoula will be the home base of the “Beaver Tech,” although field work can be up to two hours drive outside Missoula.

QUALIFICATIONS: Good candidates will have excellent people skills, be well-organized, be a practical, independent problem-solver, be handy and comfortable with light construction projects, have basic computer skills, and have experience in wildlife management or natural resource management. A Bachelor’s degree in wildlife or a related field is desirable, but not required.

TO APPLY:

Submit a letter of interest, résumé, and contacts for three professional references by April 11, 2019 to: Hiring Committee, PO Box 7593, Missoula, MT 59807, or preferably by email to:

info@clarkfork.org. (Confirmation of receipt of your application will be provided if submitted electronically.) For more information, please visit www.clarkfork.org. No calls please.