

# Volunteer Opportunities for 2011

## Mid-Columbia River National Wildlife Refuge Complex

*Please contact Marla Bennett to volunteer or to ask questions about any jobs; contact info is at bottom of the sheet. If the job description names someone else as contact, call them!*

### NEW JOBS

Repot Cottonwood Starts -- Transplant 37 native black cottonwood starts from current pots (60 cu. in.) into larger pots (20 gallon). Mix soil and sand, place into 20 gallon planting containers, and then replot trees into the larger containers. Then stake and loosely guy trees to ensure they grow up, not out. The trees will be planted out on the Refuge after growing to a larger size (likely in 3-4 years), as part of a larger effort to restore native vegetation. Bring your gloves! McNary NWR. Contact Kevin Goldie, 509-546-8323 or [Kevin\\_Goldie@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_Goldie@fws.gov).

Plant Wild rose and Aspens at Conboy Lake Refuge HQ -- We were generously donated between 400 and 700 surplus 1 gal Nootka rose and 30+ 15 gallon and 20 gallon quaking aspens. We're going to plant them around the new headquarters and bunkhouse at Conboy Lake NWR, to create some native vegetation hedgerows and thickets. The aspens will also be staked and (loosely) guyed. Staff and volunteers will travel to Conboy on the 17<sup>th</sup>, plant on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and return to the Tri-Cities on the 19<sup>th</sup>. There is some limited space in the bunkhouse. Shannon Ludwig (Refuge Manager) has also agreed to allow people to camp at the HQ area for the purposes of this project. The bunkhouse has bathrooms, potable running water, and a relatively small but fully-loaded kitchen area. There is also lodging available in the area, though FWS cannot pay for that. Bring gloves, food, overnight bags, change of clothes, and toiletries (if staying overnight). If you have a favorite potting/planting shovel, bring that too (we will have shovels/spades available). You'll love Conboy! Respond to Kevin Goldie, 509-546-8323 or [Kevin\\_Goldie@fws.gov](mailto:Kevin_Goldie@fws.gov).

### VISITOR SERVICES

Video Editor – A video camera will soon be placed in an artificial Burrowing Owl nest burrow. Interesting owl photography from this camera will be placed on the Friends of Mid-Columbia Refuges website. We don't want to show hours of no-action, so need an editor to prepare the footage for presentation. This job may expand to include other projects as well.

Videographers – The Friends of Mid-Columbia River Refuges want to present interesting bird/wildlife/insect videos on their website and on YouTube. We want to share essential nature stories, "Refuge Shorts." They would be advertised on Twitter and Facebook. Are you good with a camera? Patient? Willing to edit your work? We want you!

Visitor Contact Station – Greet visitors, provide information, answer phones, update bulletin

board, enter into ebird the birds seen on nature walk, refill bird feeders, and miscellaneous tasks as appropriate to each refuge. Weekday and weekend volunteers at McNary NWR, Burbank, WA, needed. Volunteers also wanted at Toppenish NWR, Toppenish, WA

Information Handout Creation – Develop a handout, writing text and finding photos explaining Environmental Education Center, Friends Group, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays, volunteering, and general refuge info. These handouts could be disseminated at meetings by staff and volunteers. McNary NWR. Work may be done from home if desired.

Environmental Education – Present environmental education programs for school groups both on and off the refuge. Accomplished mostly in spring. McNary NWR, Burbank, WA. Volunteer(s) needed to develop a similar program at Umatilla NWR, Umatilla, OR.

Connect Teens with Nature – Teens are losing touch with the marvels of the natural world. As the next stewards of our environment, they need to learn why they should care. We need a volunteer to develop and try out ideas to help teens connect with nature. McNary NWR, Burbank.

River Kayak Assistant – One or two people needed to accompany FWS staff person and several youth down Columbia River at the Hanford Reach National Monument in kayaks. Date will be set in spring for July and/or August trip(s). McNary NWR, Burbank, WA.

River Kayak Shuttle Driver – Two people are needed to shuttle a van and pickup with kayak tow trailer to drop off and pick up kayakers along Hanford Reach National Monument. Time between dropoff and pickup will be yours. Date will be set in spring for July and/or August trip(s).

Update Recreation Websites – Search through “recreation” websites to determine if Refuge information is accurate and up-to-date. Determine how to contact sites to change inaccurate information. Will need to talk to staff or research to find answers. May be done from home.

Social Networking – Volunteer needed to communicate for the FWS Service and Friends Group with the public via Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Flickr. Accounts need to be set up and regularly updated. May be done from home if desired.

Create Power Point Presentation – Sort through Refuge computer files and/or use your own photographs to design short, interesting presentations about the Refuges. These would be used by staff and volunteers. Some of this work may be done at home.

Label Nests in EE Building – Research nests and make labels for all nests in EE Building. McNary NWR, Burbank, WA.

## **BIOLOGY**

Remove Fenced Enclosures – Remove protective fencing, stakes, and guywires from planted trees that did not survive rehabilitation efforts at Hanford Reach National Monument. Materials will be reused on other projects.

Data conversion and summarization -- Convert biological data from Access files to Excel spreadsheets, enter additional raw field data, and summarize in tables and graphs. Work to be done at Columbia NWR, Othello. Contact Gordon Warrick [Gordon\\_warrick@fws.gov](mailto:Gordon_warrick@fws.gov)

or 509-488-2668.

Construction and mapping of Fire History -- Review refuge aerial photos and written records (mostly Annual Narrative Reports) at Columbia NWR in Othello, to construct fire history as far back as refuge resources permit. Provide cause, size and location of fires. Ultimately, as a separate project, fire boundaries may be digitized to provide a GIS layer (if aerial photo allows) and causes, season, sizes of fires analyzed for patterns and possible preventative actions. Contact Gordon Warrick [Gordon\\_warrick@fws.gov](mailto:Gordon_warrick@fws.gov) or 509-488-2668.

Vegetation Mapping – Map Phragmites, bulrush, cattails, and open water using GPS. Download data into computer. Project to be accomplished spring-fall at Columbia NWR, Othello, WA. Contact Gordon Warrick [Gordon\\_warrick@fws.gov](mailto:Gordon_warrick@fws.gov) or 509-488-2668.

## **OTHER**

Technical Writers/Editors/Grant Writers – Help write and edit the Comprehensive Conservation Plans and other documents for the Refuges. As grants become available, a grant writer would be of great benefit! Work could be done at McNary NWR or from home.

Installation of New Posts and Signs at Hunt Units – The Burbank fee hunt area and the Peninsula unit need new signs at the blind sites. If you can lift a 25-pound post pounder, and have some time, we need you. To volunteer, contact Robert Little, 509-521-0913.

National Public Lands Day Weed Eradication – On Sept. 24, 2011 several agencies are partnering together to sponsor an improvement project at the Hood River Nature Park located between Burbank and Pasco. Booths, educational materials, snacks, and a feeling of accomplishment await you there. Please contact Jaynee Levy, 509-546-8300 or [Jaynee\\_Levy@fws.gov](mailto:Jaynee_Levy@fws.gov) for more information.

Litter pick-up – People wanted for one-time, occasional, or regular cleanup of trash along Refuge roads, parking lots, boat ramps, trails, and ponds. This is needed at all 8 refuges. You are invited to adopt a trail or road if you like!

Assistant to Refuge Manager – The Manager of Umatilla, McNary, McKay Creek, and Cold Springs NWRs is a busy man. He could use a gopher, writer, organizer, and general helper for several hours per week. His office is at McNary NWR, Burbank, WA.

Sign posting and maintenance – All Refuges need old, faded signs replaced, and new posts and signs erected.

STAY TUNED. MORE JOBS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS THEY ARISE.  
Thank you for all you do to help Refuges help wildlife!

For more information or to volunteer, contact:  
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