

High Desert Museum Position Description

Title:	Wildlife Specialist—Exhibits
Division:	Wildlife Department
Classification:	Hourly Full Time Employee
Pay Scale:	Depending on experience
Reports To:	Wildlife Curator, Senior Wildlife Specialist-Exhibits
Supervises:	Seasonal Wildlife Specialists, Interns, and Volunteers

Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's Degree in a biological science or related discipline, three years practical experience in the animal field, or an equivalent combination of training and experience which provides the required skills, knowledge and abilities.
- Scholarship and interest in maintaining a detailed and current knowledge of the natural histories and important conservation issues facing wildlife species in the Museum's collection.
- Experience and interest in interpreting animal behavior/natural history for the public, or willingness to develop presentation skills associated with exhibit animals.
- Preferred experience (wild and/or captive populations) working with birds of prey and a variety of animals including, but not limited to mammals, reptiles (including venomous snakes and lizards), amphibians, and fish.
- Interest/skills in captive management of animals for conservation and education and willingness to participate in AZA (Association of Zoos and Aquariums) standards and programs in a Museum setting.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
- Ability to work both autonomously and in a positive team environment.
- Ability to perform physical tasks including, but not limited to, lifting 50 pounds, carrying, stooping, bending, extensive walking, crawling, or climbing and withstand working outside in the extreme weather conditions typical of Central Oregon.
- Ability to work flexible hours including weekends, holidays, some evenings, early mornings, and occasional overtime.

Basic Job Responsibilities:

- Conducts educational aspects with the Museum's exhibit animals, including training and interpretation.
- Conducts the daily aspects of animal care for all exhibit animals including, but not limited to, all cleaning, feeding, watering, observing, record-keeping, maintaining enclosures, and opening and closing duties.
- Provides input into research, planning and building assistance for exhibit design, construction, and renovation.
- Maintains inventory, food, and cleaning supplies as necessary.
- Works closely with contract veterinarian as needed and provide appropriate level of veterinary assistance.
- Supervises training of interns, teen and adult volunteers.
- Under the supervision of the Curator of Living Collections and Senior Wildlife Specialist-Exhibits, plan and coordinate animal acquisition and disposition with Wildlife team and consultation.
- Participation and development of wildlife and education programs under the guidance of the Curator of Living Collections.

Complies with all Museum policies, procedures, and safety regulations.

Wildlife Specialist – Exhibits.

The High Desert Museum is a non-profit organization focused on the biotic and cultural elements of the High Desert region of the Western United States. Located near Bend, Oregon, on the edge of the beautiful Deschutes National Forest, the Museum melds the natural history of diverse habitat types with human history of the environment into a unique blend of indoor and outdoor exhibits, living history, and living collections. The Museum maintains about 325 animals of 57 native species of varied taxa, from invertebrates and reptiles, to raptors, bobcats, otter, and lynx. Public education grounded in documented science is a core value of the Museum.

We are seeking a Wildlife Specialist (WS) to provide all aspects of care and support for live native wildlife in exhibits. Experience caring for collections in a zoo, research, or private setting is important. In addition to performing keeper duties, the WS will also conduct some public education programs associated with the collection, maintain natural exhibit integrity, and collaborate on new exhibits. Furthermore, the Museum requires a high level of interaction between wildlife staff and visitors – contributing positively to the visitor experience is important. The Museum emphasizes scholarship: the successful candidate will have a familiarity with current scientific and popular literature and will incorporate this knowledge into care and husbandry and programs. Experience and interest in wildlife research is a plus; the Museum encourages appropriate field projects by Staff. Experience caring for and handling venomous reptiles is a priority skill.

We are seeking a qualified individual who can work equally well autonomously or in a team situation. A positive demeanor, high level of professionalism, and the ability to learn new skills quickly are essential traits. We look at each candidate in terms of combined strengths; different combinations of skills can serve to qualify for the position.