

Job Type: Volunteer – Temporary
Positions Available: 2 – 3
Duration: 7 – 8 months (mid-February to October)
Location: Laysan Island, Hawaiian Islands NWR
Closing Date: January 15, 2012*

Description:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking 2 – 3 volunteers for the summer field season on Laysan Island (March-September). 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, the Laysan duck and *Cyperus pennatifolius* var. *bryanii* (Laysan sedge), *Pritchardia remota* (Laysan fan palm), Hawaiian green sea turtle, and Hawaiian monk seal. It is considered to be among the most intact terrestrial ecosystems in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and the only island with an inland lake. For more information on Laysan Island see <http://papahanaumokuakea.gov/about/laysan.html>.

As a volunteer you will have the opportunity to travel to and live in this remote setting. You will be surrounded by birds, sea life, and native vegetation. 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).

Additionally, 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 instrument, snorkeling gear, etc.) may either be inspected and cleaned thoroughly and frozen or bug-bombed prior to departure.

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. Primary responsibilities of the Summer Tour include: invasive plant monitoring and removal (majority of the time is spent working with invasive), native plant propagation, monitoring the reproductive success of Laysan and black-footed albatross, banding albatross chicks, bird 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. Volunteers report directly to the lead Biological Technician on Laysan Island. Additionally volunteers will be expected to help with regular camp maintenance and chores.

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; 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; and have full color eyesight correctable to 20/20.

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.

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.

*Applications will be evaluated as they arrive, and these positions may be filled by the closing date.

Please submit a cover letter, resume, and at least three references to:
Michele Kuter
Email: Michele_Kuter@fws.gov