

# POSITIONS FILLED

## Crew Leader for Northern Goshawk and Spotted Owl Tracking in the Sierra Nevada

We have one opening for a crew leader to oversee and coordinate a movement study of Northern Goshawks and California Spotted Owls using new direct-link GPS-UHF tracking systems during spring/summer 2017 in the northern Sierra Nevada.

PROJECT DATES (tentative): May 15 – July 31 2017.

**TRAINING:** The field season will begin with a training session on conducting surveys, tracking technologies and methods, and on project protocols for habitat and vegetation assessments. Applicants with owl and raptor life history knowledge and interest are preferred.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** This position will involve supervising a team of 2+ volunteer technicians, and working closely with project partners and investigators. Early in the season, the Crew Leader will join a team of surveyors and a capture team tasked with capturing and fitting approximately twenty birds with tracking devices. Once equipment is deployed the Crew Leader will be responsible for establishing protocols and schedules for tracking marked birds and downloading data from remote devices. A number of marked birds will be tracked in areas receiving management treatments, and the Crew Leader will be responsible for coordinating pre- and post-treatment vegetation surveys on those and other sites. The Crew Leader will also be responsible for ensuring that tracking systems remain operational throughout the season.

On a typical day, the crew will wake up before dawn, drive and/or hike 30min - 1.5 hrs, and spend the morning deploying automated tracking equipment, or downloading data from marked birds. Afternoons will be spent conducting vegetation assessments within bird territories, organizing data, and planning travels for subsequent days. Work will be moderately physically demanding involving off-trail hikes into data collection sites. The typical work schedule will be either 5 days on and 2 off, or 10 days consecutive work followed by 2-3 days off (early in the season and during trapping).

**REQUIREMENTS:** We are seeking candidates with prior raptor and/or owl tracking and study experience, familiarity with radio telemetry and other geospatial technologies, and prior supervisory experience. Prior experience with raptor handling, territory/nest monitoring, and GIS software is also preferred. Other requirements include a tolerance for aggressive and carnivorous birds, and a robust understanding of raptor and owl natural history. Survey work will occur in the Sierra Nevada near the town of Quincy, and substantial vehicle travel will be required. A willingness to face the rigors of fieldwork, and the ability to keep your cool when engaging study subjects that can be more intelligent (and certainly more frustrating) than humans is important. Many sites are remote, and transit and equipment movement can be physically demanding. Portions of the season will include long work days that may begin well

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before dawn and/or late into the evening, wet and cold weather, hot and dry weather, mosquitoes and biting flies, occasional contact with bears, and housing that may be rustic and/or somewhat crowded.

Successful candidates must be in excellent physical condition and must be comfortable with off-trail hiking and orienteering (training provided).

**EQUIPMENT:** Personal binoculars, sense of humor, enthusiasm, boots, raingear, etc. A personal automobile is strongly preferred and project-related mileage will be reimbursed.

**COMPENSATION:** The Crew Leader will be considered an IBP seasonal staff member, and will receive payment of \$2,400 per month (before payroll taxes) and project-related travel mileage reimbursement (\$0.37/mile), but no fringe benefits. Free shared housing will be provided.

**MORE INFORMATION:** For more information about this IBP program, please contact Dylan Kesler, at keslerd at mac dot com.

**TO APPLY:** Please email a resume, cover letter, and the names, phone numbers and email addresses of two references to [Mandy Holmgren](mailto:mholmgren@birdpop.org), Biologist at: mholmgren AT birdpop DOT org.