

DWORSHAK FISHERIES COMPLEX VOLUNTEER JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Production Assistant - Spawning

Location: Dworshak National Fish Hatchery

Duties and Responsibilities: Production assistants (PA) work with hatchery staff to spawn approximately 2,000 adult steelhead per year. Production assistants may sort male and female steelhead, check adult fish for ripeness, collect eggs or milt, wash eggs, or other spawning processes. Training will be provided for each task. Production assistants may also assist with Chinook salmon spawning in late summer, but duties will focus on the busy steelhead season from January to May. Production assistants are responsible for recording work hours in the volunteer time log.

Qualifications and Skills: Experience with and/or interest in fish/fishing, salmon or steelhead. Experience in identifying salmon and steelhead species and male vs. female fish desired, but not required. Ability and willingness to work with hatchery staff. Ability to stand in wet, cold conditions for up to 4 hours at a time. Ability to turn and/or lift up to 25 pounds. Ability to work in a variety of environmental conditions, i.e. dim light, day light, background noise, wet floors, fish (dead and alive) and associated smells.

Time Commitment: During steelhead spawning season (**late January to early May**), commitment is a minimum of **4 hours** per week and a minimum of two weeks. Spawning takes place on **Tuesdays between 8:30am and 12pm**. Production assistants should arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start time to check-in, receive updated spawning information, and put on rain gear/boots. Production assistants may bring a sack lunch or snack if desired, and in case spawning runs long. **It is the volunteer's responsibility to inform the supervisor if unable to work on a scheduled day. Call 476-4591 after 7:30am and before you are scheduled to arrive.**

Uniforms: A shirt, ball cap, rain gear and rubber boots are provided by the hatchery; rain gear and boots will be kept at the hatchery. These items are to be worn when working; however, due to cold weather in the early part of spawning season, volunteers may want to wear layers of warm clothes under the rain gear. Production assistants are also welcome to bring their own outerwear, if desired.

Other Information: Accessible parking is available in designated spaces in front of the main building; general parallel parking is available next to the lawn. Vending machines, restrooms, water fountain and coffee (for a small fee) are located in the staff area. Refrigerator and microwave are also available in the downstairs breakroom. Smoking is not allowed indoors.

Supervision: Provided directly by the Assistant Hatchery Manager or Lead Fishery Biologist. Specific volunteer program issues may be addressed to the Information/Education Assistant.