

Sheldon-Hart National Wildlife Refuge



Are you interested in experiencing the inter-mountain west with its rich history and beautiful panoramic landscape? If so, the Federal Wildlife Officer (GL-09) position at the Sheldon-Hart Mountain National Wildlife Refuge Complex is for you. Comprised of 850,000 acres, the Sheldon and Hart Mountain Refuges are remote and expansive jewels of high-desert habitat within the Great Basin set aside by Executive Order in the 1930s for the conservation of pronghorn antelope. Spread between two States, Oregon and Nevada, and unique in its size Sheldon-Hart Mt. NWR's offer a complexity of management and array of species including 239 bird species, 42 species of mammal, and at least eight species of reptile.

The Complex is managed from a centralized Administrative Office located in Lakeview, Oregon. The Town of Lakeview, established in 1876 is the county seat of Lake County Oregon. With an elevation of 4,798 feet, Lakeview is often referred to as the "Tallest Town in Oregon". Lakeview is situated at the foot of the Warner Mountains and at the edge of the southeast Oregon High Desert. The area offers relatively comfortable dry summer temperatures and cold snow covered winters with an annual precipitation of around 16 inches.

The Sheldon National Wildlife Refuge protects more than half a million acres of high desert habitat for large wintering herds of pronghorn antelope, scattered bands of bighorn sheep,

and a rich assortment of other wildlife and is one of the few intact sagebrush steppe ecosystems in the Great Basin. The landscape is vast, rugged, and punctuated with waterfalls, narrow gorges, and lush springs among rolling hills and expansive tablelands of sagebrush and mountain mahogany. Elevations on the refuge range from 4,100 to 7,200 feet. Annual precipitation rarely amounts to more than a dozen inches, creating a harsh environment where a wide variety of wildlife manages to thrive. While free of cattle since the mid-1990s, removal of feral horses and burros remains a key management priority drawing national attention. Although established for the protection of wildlife and habitat, the refuge encompasses other interesting features. The remains of old homesteads and ranches intrigue visitors. The lure of fire opals draws miners and rock collectors to the Virgin Valley mining district. Geothermal hot springs create a refreshing oasis in the heart of the refuge. The refuge's mosaic of resources and public interests generates significant management challenges.

Hart Mountain National Antelope Refuge is located on a massive fault block ridge that ascends abruptly nearly three quarters of a mile above the Warner Valley floor in a series of rugged cliffs, steep slopes, and knife-like ridges. Visitors experience spectacular views of the beautiful Warner Valley Wetlands while ascending the west side is cut by several deep gorges. Hart,

Potter, and DeGarmo canyons, the most rugged, extend from the valley floor to the top of the main ridge. The east side of the mountain is less precipitous, descending in a series of rolling hills and low ridges to the sagebrush-grasslands typical of southeastern Oregon and the Great Basin. The rugged diversity of the terrain creates a rich mix of habitat types, and is home to feature species such as pronghorn antelope, California bighorn sheep, mule deer, sage grouse, and redband trout. The 278,000-acre refuge is one of the most expansive wildlife habitats in the arid West free of domestic livestock. Since its creation in 1936 as a range for remnant herds of pronghorn antelope, management of the refuge has broadened to include conservation of all wildlife species characteristic of this high desert habitat and restoration of native ecosystems for the public's enjoyment, education, and appreciation.

For further information on the duties of the position and/or living in Lake County, please feel free to contact us:

SFWO John Megan (541) 493-4243 or (541) 589-0546

FWZO Ray Portwood (208) 467-9279 or (208) 249-9668