Crazy Ant Strike Team Crew Leader
CAST XV Expedition to Johnston Atoll

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii are now accepting applications for the crew leader of the 15th Crazy Ant Strike Team (CAST 15) Expedition to Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Johnston Atoll NWR is located in the central Pacific Ocean, 720 nautical miles west-southwest of Honolulu and is the only emergent land in over 750,000 square miles of ocean. The refuge is uninhabited except for the five members of the strike team.

A crew leader is being sought to lead a team of four volunteers to continue the eradication of the aggressively invasive Yellow Crazy Ant (YCA) and destroy the last 1% of the ants remaining on the island, monitor the seabird populations, and conduct other management activities.

The position will begin mid-October 2017 and is anticipated to extend until mid-June 2018. Housing will be provided for a 6 week period that will be spent in Honolulu during which the crew leader will assist with extensive trip preparations followed by an approximate 6-month deployment to the CAST field camp on Johnston Island, starting in early December 2017.

Duties: The crew leader will be responsible for training and supervising a crew of four (4) volunteers in the performance of management activities that include:
- The implementation of established protocols to monitor ants, seabirds, shorebirds, sea turtles and marine reef ecosystems.
- Camp and facilities maintenance including servicing of solar systems, generator and UTV’s
- Supervise the preparation and application of herbicide and pesticide baits.
- Evaluate the ecological impacts of YCA within and outside the infested area before and after ant eradication efforts.
- Submit weekly situation reports to project managers.
- Submit a final trip summary report to project managers
- Train and supervise volunteers in all skills and techniques necessary in the performance of biological field work and remote living.

Requirements:
- Must be available from mid-October 2017 through mid-June 2018
- Must possess a bachelor’s or higher degree in a biological science or other natural resource management related field.
- Must have at least 24 months of biological field work experience.
- Must have 12-24 months of supervisory experience and be able to provide work direction and guidance to volunteers.
- Must be an excellent communicator.
- Must be comfortable with the use of pesticides and herbicides.
- Must have the ability to maintain facilities such as photovoltaic systems, generators, propane appliances, utility vehicles and bicycles.
- Must be able to follow established protocols.
- Must be physically fit and able to walk 10 miles a day, lift and carry 70 lbs, ride a bicycle, swim and be able to perform repetitive stooping and bending motions.
- Must have experience using GPS units as well as with GIS tools and ArcGIS software.
- Must be proficient in the use of MS Excel and Word programs.
- Must be willing and able to work 48 hours per week/ 6 days per week.
- Must possess a valid driver’s license that does not expire before December 2018.
- Must possess a valid passport that does not expire before December 2018.
- Must possess American Red Cross First Aid/CPR certification (within 3 months of hire).
The ideal candidate will also:

- Possess a graduate degree.
- Have at least 6 years or more of extensive biological field experience.
- Have extensive experience in remote camping and living,
- Have experience with pesticide and herbicide applications, integrated pest management plans, and possess pesticide application certifications.
- Be proficient with GIS systems.
- Have experience and training with advanced wilderness first aid.
- Have basic or advanced knowledge and skills in carpentry, electrical repair, and small engine systems and repairs.
- Have prior experience with seabird and shorebird identification and banding.
- Have prior entomological survey and identification experience.
- Be proficient in technical report writing.

It is imperative that candidates consider that Johnston is a very remote site where all but emergency access is by ship, which takes 3-5 days to transit from Honolulu. No re-supply or ship visits during the 6-month camp are anticipated. On the island, transportation will primarily be by foot or bicycle with 1-mile daily commutes to the work site. Living conditions are primitive and consist of personal sleeping tents while a bunker is used for communal/food storage/kitchen and office areas. Weather conditions can be harsh with strong winds, tropical storms, hot sun and high humidity. Bathing and washing is done in the ocean. Communication with the island is achieved via a satellite phone, satellite texting device, and limited internet connection. However, this internet access cannot be guaranteed and team members must be prepared in case communications become limited to text only e-mail with no internet browsing capability. Direct medical attention is at minimum 1-3 days away. Safety in this remote setting is of primary concern and all individuals are expected to work together as a team to maintain good communication at all times.

**Salary:**

Salary will be ~$775/week while deployed on Johnston Island and ~$645/week while in Honolulu. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide: housing in Honolulu (pre-deployment staging and post camp breakdown and debrief), transportation between Honolulu and Johnston, and food and housing on Johnston.

To apply, send an email with subject line: CAST XV Crew Leader and include (as separate files) a cover letter, CV or resume, and 3 references to:

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