

**Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge  
Volunteer Position Announcement 2015**

**Project Title:** Kodiak Brown Bear and Salmon Monitoring

**Location & Dates:** Kodiak Island, AK; May 11 to September 30, 2015

**Job Description:**

Volunteer field research assistants needed to assist on a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Kodiak Brown Bear and Salmon project. Working long hours in remote, rugged, inclement conditions, volunteer will assist KNWR staff in monitoring Kodiak brown bear habitat use, activity, and ecological relationship to spawning salmon. Duties may include: deploying and maintaining photography equipment used to monitor bear density and salmon runs; ground – truthing satellite imagery; counting salmon and bears in time lapse photographs; entering data in Excel, MS Access and ArcGIS; conducting preliminary data summary and analysis; carrying a firearm and acting as a bearguard.

This position requires extended field deployment via floatplane or helicopter without access to normal communications (e.g., internet or telephone). Mandatory training includes: Firearms Safety, Bear Awareness, Aircraft Safety, and Aircraft Water Ditching and Survival (including a simulated plane crash in a pool). Applicants *must be able to arrive* on Kodiak Island by May 11 to participate in scheduled training. Lodging in the field will be provided using cabins and tents. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will cover round-trip airfare to Kodiak, pay all field costs except personal gear, provide housing and provide a small daily living allowance while in the town of Kodiak. For additional information about volunteering with us, please visit our website: [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kodiak/get\\_involved/volunteer.html](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kodiak/get_involved/volunteer.html).

**Qualifications:**

Required skills and experience

- capable of intense physical activity, including working extended hours under harsh weather conditions, hiking substantial distances through rugged terrain in bear country, and carrying 50 lbs. of gear;
- a good attitude and sense of teamwork; must be able to work well with others in small groups for extended periods in isolated conditions;
- prior experience collecting biological data in the field;
- strong desire to live and work in back-country setting for several months, including living and working from a tent for up to 2-week periods;
- basic knowledge of fish biology;
- proficient with safely handling a shotgun; ideal candidates are experienced shooters;
- GPS & Excel skills; position requires attention to detail and significant work with data.

Preferred skills

- ArcGIS
- basic mechanical and/or electrical skills
- experience living and working in bear country.

**Application period: December 20-January 11, 2015.** Please email a **single document** with the following: a cover letter addressing the above criteria, your resume, and email addresses for 3 references to William Leacock ([william\\_leacock@fws.gov](mailto:william_leacock@fws.gov)) and Lisa Hupp, Volunteer Coordinator ([lisa\\_hupp@fws.gov](mailto:lisa_hupp@fws.gov)). Successful applicants will be notified by March.