

**Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge
Volunteer Position Announcement 2016**

Position Title: Kittlitz's Murrelet Nesting Ecology Volunteer Research Assistant

Location: Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, AK

Dates: May 10-August 12/September 9 2016

VOLUNTEER FIELD RESEARCH ASSISTANTS needed to assist with cooperative nesting ecology study of a rare seabird, the KITTILITZ'S MURRELET, between May 10 - Aug 12 (one or two positions may extend into September). Volunteers should have a positive attitude, be very fit, enjoy camping and strenuous hikes off-trail in mountainous terrain, and relish isolated duty in a challenging environment. Volunteers will spend the first 2 weeks in orientation, safety training, and preparation for field deployment. During the following 8 - 12 weeks, volunteers and refuge biologists will conduct research out of remote camps located in mountain valleys of southwestern Kodiak Island. Successful applicants should be prepared for a full-immersion wilderness experience during this time, including basic tent camps with no amenities and infrequent re-supply/mail flights (1-3 times per summer). The final weeks will be spent in Kodiak entering data, reviewing nest images, and storing field gear. One or two interns may work on additional projects such as at-sea avian monitoring between mid-August and mid-September.

Study tasks will include: searching for nests on steep, rocky slopes, monitoring nesting biology primarily with digital game cameras, habitat sampling around nest sites, and backpacking (+45 lbs.) between base camps. Ideal candidates will have experience in conducting bird surveys or research, camping in extreme and isolated conditions, working in bear country, and be in excellent physical condition to handle the rigors of the demanding field research.

The Fish and Wildlife Service will pay round-trip airfare to Kodiak; provide shared housing while in Kodiak, and pay all field costs except personal clothing. A small living allowance will be provided. 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 10 to participate in scheduled training. For additional information about volunteering in Kodiak, please visit our website: http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Kodiak/get_involved/volunteer.html

To apply, please email a **single document** with cover letter addressing the above criteria, your resume, and email contacts for 3 references to LISA HUPP, Kodiak NWR Volunteer Coordinator (email: lisa_hupp@fws.gov); PH: 907-487-0285 **and** TIMOTHY KNUDSON, crew leader (knudson@siu.edu) Failure to submit application as a single document may result in your application not being reviewed.

Application deadline: extended to February 12, 2016; positions may be filled as qualified applicants are identified.