Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Employment Job Posting

BLACK BASS PROGRAM COORDINATOR - **AGFC BIOLOGIST PROGRAM SPECIALIST**

POSITION NO: 22144346

POSTING INFORMATION:

Advertisement Opens: Jan. 13, 2023

Advertisement Closes: Feb. 10, 2023

Full Time: Yes

Salary: $54,021.00 - $54,021.00 Annually

POSTING REQUIREMENTS:

Minimum Education and/or Experience:

The formal education equivalent to a bachelor's degree in biology, zoology, botany, or a related field; plus three years of experience in wildlife management or a related field.

OTHER JOB-RELATED EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR ALL OR PART OF THESE BASIC REQUIREMENTS, EXCEPT FOR CERTIFICATION OR LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS, UPON APPROVAL OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES CHIEF.

Preferred Education and/or Experience:

Master’s Degree in Fisheries Science and/or Management plus a minimum of three years’ experience working for a state or federal Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Agency or an angling-related Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO). Experience with black bass management and interest in black bass angling. Experience and training in communication and public involvement techniques in natural resource management.

Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills:

Knowledge of the principles of biology, ecology, and related environmental sciences. Knowledge of methods and techniques of scientific testing, data collection, and analysis. Knowledge of the effects of pollution on plants, fish, animals, and human life. Knowledge of fish/wildlife management programs, including propagation, cultivation, and harvesting techniques. Knowledge of wildlife/fish management laboratory techniques, equipment, and procedures. Ability to communicate in oral and written forms. Ability to make public presentations. Ability to conduct scientific wildlife and/or fish surveys/studies, analyze and evaluate lected data, and prepare written narrative reports of findings. Ability to direct, coordinate, and maintain wildlife and/or fish management programs. Ability to operate and maintain fishery and wildlife equipment.

Preferred Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills:

Knowledge of freshwater aquatic plants and related management techniques. Skill in writing (both technical and popular articles). Skill in the maintenance and operation of boats, outboard motors, fish sampling equipment, etc. Skill in the use of word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, and database software programs. Ability to exercise sound judgment and reasoning in decision-making and problem-solving. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with public, stakeholders, and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission staff. Ability to implement project management techniques and practices (scheduling/task management) to ensure completion of programs and projects in an effective and timely manner. Ability to write and edit technical reports in a timely manner. Ability to professionally explain Project, Division, and Agency programs, policies, and procedures to the public and other stakeholders.

POSTING DETAILS:

Position Location:

City: Statewide

Office: Negotiable

Division: Fisheries

Job Summary:

Black bass fishing in Arkansas is so important that AGFC has a dedicated program with two full-time biologists to provide leadership in managing the most important group of game fish in our state. This is a supervisory biologist position with oversight of the AGFC "Black Bass Program" (BBP) in the Fisheries Division. The BBP leads a statewide science-based effort to support District Fisheries Biologists with all issues associated with managing black bass fisheries and oversees a number of programs that engage targeted bass anglers and tournament organizers.

The BBP Supervisor supervises a Black Bass Management Biologist. Together, the BBP works with District Fisheries Biologists to execute the strategies outlined in the "AGFC Reservoir Black Bass Management Plan" as well as assisting with the execution of the strategies detailed in a new "AGFC Smallmouth Bass Management Plan" (https://www.agfc.com/en/fishing/sportfish/black-*bass*/bbp/). The BBP recently led efforts to revise both of these plans and is now leading their implementation.

This is a high-profile position requiring excellent people skills. Communication and collaboration with bass anglers and related stakeholders will be the primary responsibility of this position. The BBP Supervisor will also be expected to lead the implementation of a new agency angler recognition/trophy fish propagation program, requiring strong leadership and management skills.

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) Biologist Program Specialist is responsible for the management and life processes of fish, wildlife, and their habitats; collecting and analyzing biological data; and, specializing in fish and wildlife research, management, husbandry, and/or habitat management. This position is governed by state and federal laws and agency policy.

Typical Functions:

Provides program and project supervision by developing program curriculums, monitoring facilities and personnel, and coordinating program maintenance and protocols. Provides program and project supervision by developing program curriculums, monitoring facilities and personnel, and coordinating program maintenance and protocols. Provides program and project supervision by developing program curriculums, monitoring facilities and personnel, and coordinating program maintenance and protocols. Makes recommendations on management, regulation, and planning of fish and wildlife populations and habitats, consulting with stakeholders and the public at large to explore options. Studies characteristics of fish and wildlife, such as population dynamics, life histories, diseases, genetics, and distribution. Prepares collections of preserved specimens or microscopic slides for species identification and study of development or disease. Implements state and federal preventative programs to monitor and control fish and wildlife diseases and invasive, exotic species. Disseminates information by writing reports and making presentations to schools, clubs, interest groups, and agency administration. Promotes hunting and fishing through a variety of outreach programs. Directs the operation and maintenance of various public lands, waters, and/or fish propagation facilities, based on program management plans. May testify as an expert witness in legal proceedings. Performs other duties as assigned.

Specific Duties and Responsibilities:

See “Job Summary”

Certificates, Licenses, or Registrations:

Must possess a valid Arkansas driver’s license.

Successful candidates possessing Certified Fisheries Professional status with the American Fisheries Society are eligible for a 6% salary increase.

Special Job Dimensions:

Frequent in-state travel required.

Other Specific Information:

This position is currently based in Hot Springs Arkansas at an AGFC Regional Office.
However, the location within Arkansas is negotiable.
Location: Hot Springs, AR or to be determined at the time of hire.

For additional information on this position, please contact Darrell Bowman, Assistant Chief of Fisheries Management at Darrell.bowman@agfc.ar.gov.

All applicants are subject to a criminal background check.

As an equal opportunity employer, the Commission will make any reasonable accommodations necessary to ensure equal employment opportunities.