



OUTREACH NOTICE

Wildlife Biologist GS 0486-11 PFT

Tongass National Forest Petersburg Ranger District

Living in Southeast Alaska is an exceptional and never-to-be-forgotten adventure! You may see Orcas as well as eagles from your office window, learn from Alaska Native elders, and catch as many fish as you need, in addition to enjoying and participating in cultural activities. Living in Southeast Alaska is unique. Travel between communities and to the Outside (lower 48 states) generally means getting on an airplane (either jet or small float plane) or on a ferry. Between one's sense of humor about the rain and the diverse array of activities offered in communities, most people who move here love it!

The Tongass National Forest is outreaching for a Wildlife Biologist GS 0486-11 PFT to be located in Petersburg, Alaska at the Petersburg Ranger District office. If you are interested in being considered for this opportunity please complete the outreach response form located below and send it to Tom Parker at tparker02@fs.fed.us by close of business March 23th, 2016. For additional information on this position or location information, please contact Tom Parker at 907-772-5974.

Position Title: Wildlife Biologist GS 0486-9/11

Tours of Duty: Permanent Full Time

Duty Station: Petersburg, Alaska

Description of Duties:

This position serves as the district wildlife biologist in the preparation and review of technical documents such as but not limited to resource reports for EIS's, EA's, CE's, BE/BA's and Decision Memos. The position will also work with internal and external partners and other resource specialist individually and in team settings on the District by developing project proposals, budgeting, and creating technical reports for project management. This is a field going position that requires experience implementing wildlife survey protocols. This position is located within the District resource planning staff group. The supervisor of the position is Tom Parker, who may be reached at (907)772-5974 or tparker02@fs.fed.us.

Qualification Requirements: Those who are interested must meet the qualification requirements for the GS-0486, which is covered under the Professional and Scientific positions standards. The OPM Qualification Standards Handbook is available for review at any federal personnel office OR on the Internet at <http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/index.htm>.

One year of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower level in the federal service is required. Specialized experience is experience, which is directly related to the position to be filled, and which has equipped the candidate with the particular knowledge, skills and abilities to successfully perform the duties of the position.

For information on the position:

Contact Person(s): Tom Parker

Phone Number: 907 772-5974

Email address: tparker02@fs.fed.us

If you are interested in this opportunity, please fill out the attached form and send it to tparker02@fs.fed.us by close of business March 23, 2016.

Thank you for your interest in this position!

Tongass National Forest Information: The Tongass National Forest was established in 1902 and covers nearly 17 million acres in Southeast Alaska. It is the nation's largest and most untouched National Forest. The Tongass stretches nearly 500 miles from its boundary with the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve in the north, to the Canadian boundary in the south. It includes most of the islands of the Alexander Archipelago, and the mainland between these islands. The unique forest landscapes of the Tongass vary dramatically in topographic relief and include a mosaic of forest, peat lands, steep rocky areas, glaciated mountains and other non-forested lands.

Alaska's magnificent scenery, vast forests, and abundant natural resources match the size of the forest. The Tongass makes up ninety percent of Southeast Alaska and is a land of glaciers, mountains, waterways and thousands of islands separated by straits and channels. The islands and mainland create 11,000 miles of shoreline where regal mountains rise from the tidewater to overlook a mostly undeveloped and isolated landscape. The geography of the Alexander Archipelago presents a transportation challenge and most of the Tongass is isolated from the continental road system. You will find yourself boating or flying in a floatplane to most field locations. Visitors arrive by cruise ship, ferry or commercial airplane.

The Forest has 175 public recreation cabins and shelters, nearly 600 miles of trails, approximately 11,000 miles of saltwater shoreline, 45,000 miles of stream, 20,000 lakes and ponds, and more than 1,000 islands. It includes Prince of Wales Island, the third largest island in United States. It also has two national monuments—Admiralty Island and Misty Fiords.

TNF website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/>

Specific District and Community Information: Petersburg

Location and Climate

Petersburg is a town of 3,847 (2008) located on the northwest end of Mitkof Island, in Southeast Alaska. It lies in the heart of the Tongass National Forest about 700 miles north of Seattle, where the picturesque Wrangell Narrows of “Inside Passage” fame meets the waters of Frederick Sound.



Rainy day in Petersburg with the USFS and US Coast Guard docks in the foreground

Petersburg's climate is characterized by mild winters and cool summers. Average summer temperatures range from 40 to 56 °F; while winters average from 27 to 43 °F. Annual rainfall is about 106 inches, with as much as 97 inches of snow.

Like most of Southeast Alaska, Mitkof Island is mountainous and heavily forested. The temperate rainforest vegetation consists largely of Sitka spruce, western hemlock and Alaska yellow-cedar, interspersed by muskeg--a spongy, mossy bog that is sparsely covered by small lodgepole pines.

Across Frederick Sound, the high, rugged mountains of the Alaska Coast Range provide a backdrop to the community. Devil's Thumb is a prominent landmark that rises above the icefield spanning the border between Alaska and Canada.

History Culture and Demographics

Though the Tlingit Indians used the north end of Mitkof Island as a summer fish camp, Petersburg was not historically a native settlement. The town was named after Peter Buschmann, a Norwegian immigrant who pioneered the local cannery business by exploiting the availability of glacier ice in the area. The cannery has operated continuously since that time. Over the years, Petersburg has developed into one of Alaska's major fishing communities.

The community of Petersburg is proud of its Tlingit and Scandinavian history. The town known as "Little Norway" celebrates its heritage with the annual Little Norway Festival during May. A federally-recognized tribe-- the Petersburg Indian Association—is also located in Petersburg. The population of the community consists of 12% Alaska Native or part Native.

Across the Narrows is the community of Kupreanof, once busy with fur farms, a boat repair yard, and sawmill. Residents of Kupreanof travel by boat back and forth to Mitkof Island for city services, work and recreation.

The last census reported that 66% of all houses were owner-occupied, and 33% were renter-occupied. The vacancy rate for housing was less than 10%, and the average price of a home was \$175,000. Rents average between \$750 and \$1000 per month. The median family income in 2000 was \$54,934, with less than 5 % of the population falling below poverty level.

Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care

Water is supplied by Cabin Creek Dam, and is distributed via pipes to 90% of households. Outlying homes use individual wells or water delivery. Electricity is provided by Petersburg Municipal Power & Light, which operates primarily on hydropower. Most homes are connected to the municipal sewer or have approved on-site treatment. Residential garbage pickup is provided by the City.

Three schools in the community provide education to about 500 students. The school district enjoys strong local support of programs and activities, including academics, sports, music performances and a foreign exchange program. As part of the high school and middle school complex, a community gym, pool and Community School provide recreation and education opportunities for area residents.

Local hospitals or health clinics include Petersburg Medical Center and Petersburg Public Health Center. The hospital is a qualified Acute Care and Long Term Care facility. Emergency services are provided by the City and volunteer Fire Department and EMS.

Economy and Transportation

Petersburg's economy is based on commercial fishing, tourism and government. Several fish processors operate cold storage, canneries, and custom packing services. The Crystal Lake Hatchery produces chinook and coho smolts, which contribute to the local salmon resource. Though independent sportsmen and tourists utilize the local charter boats and lodges, there is no deep water dock suitable for large cruise ships.

Petersburg is accessed by air and water, and is served by the mainline state ferry route. The James A. Johnson Airport and local seaplane base allow for scheduled jet and float plane services, as well. Harbor facilities include three boat harbors

with moorage for 700 boats, a boat launch, and a boat haul-out. Freight arrives by barge, ferry, or cargo plane.

Recreation and Amenities

Outdoor sports activities like fishing, hunting, kayaking, boating, berry picking and wildlife viewing are an integral part of life in Petersburg. Canada geese, wolves, black bear, moose, deer, goat, and trumpeter swans are among the many animals common to the island.

Over 240 species of birds, including bald eagles, have been recorded on the island. Sea lions and seals are often seen in the harbor and the waters surrounding Petersburg. During the summer, hundreds of humpback whales live and feed in the waters nearby, and orcas occasionally navigate the waters of Wrangell Narrows.

All species of wild Alaska salmon can be caught in the waters around Petersburg. Crab, halibut and rockfish are also plentiful just a short boat ride from town.

Many clubs and organizations have evolved over the years, including a large number of non-profit groups. Petersburg is also home to 13 churches and religious groups.

Petersburg is also known for its wide range of public art. Many local businesses and residences highlight Norwegian-style toll painting, or rosemaling. Sculptures, murals, totems and even designs in the sidewalk concrete show the influence of local artists and crafts throughout the town.

More community information, photographs and contacts can be found on the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce website at www.petersburg.org



Resident Sea lions on navigation marker at the mouth of the Wrangell Narrows near Petersburg