**Elk Research Technician (2-4)**

**Agency** University of Montana, Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit

**Location** Noxon, Montana (Northwest Montana)

**Job Category** Temporary/Seasonal Positions

**Salary** $15/hr

**Start Date** 05/15/2025

**End Date** 08/08/25

**Last Date to Apply** 01/06/2025

**Website** https://www.umt.edu/mcwru/

**Description**

The University of Montana Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit is hiring 2-4 wildlife technicians as part of a collaborative research project with Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. This research will be used to monitor elk populations and better understand elk population demographics in northwest Montana. The purpose of this project is to estimate elk population vital rates including survival and recruitment and to estimate elk and carnivore population abundance.

For the first six weeks of the field season, technicians will be responsible for assisting with elk neonate captures, monitoring adult and neonate GPS collars, and investigating adult and neonate mortalities. For the second six-weeks of the field season, technicians will be responsible for collecting remote cameras and conducting mortality investigations. During the calving season, technician duties will include locating elk adults and calves using telemetry, assisting with calf captures, working with teams of volunteers for captures, monitoring GPS collars for mortality signals, and conducting mortality site investigations. During the camera season, technician duties will include navigating to cameras, collecting SD cards, and removing cameras from the field. Technicians will be required to follow strict working protocols, collect accurate, and detailed data. In an average day, technicians should expect to hike between 6-15 miles, gain up to 5000 feet in elevation, experience harsh environmental conditions, and plan for off-trail travel across steep and rugged terrain. This technician should also be prepared to carry up to 50lbs of equipment, work extended or irregular hours, and assist with other research projects when necessary.

This technician will be required to live at a remote basecamp during the work week and car camp at times. The closest town to basecamp is Noxon, MT which is 2.5 hours west of Missoula, MT or 2.5 hours east of Spokane, WA. Housing will be provided in the form of a cabin, camp trailers, or tents. Technicians will have access to the on-site cabin for cooking, food storage, and internet access.

Duration: May 15, 2025 – August 8, 2025

**Qualifications**

Interested applicants should have experience with capturing large mammals and conducting mortality site investigations. Applicants should have experience identifying mammalian tracks and scat. Interested applicants must have experience safely operating 4WD vehicles in rough, mountainous terrain. Applicants must be able to regularly carry heavy weight and be physically fit as most travel is off-trail and very challenging. Additionally, qualified candidates should be confident with off-trail navigation in unfamiliar terrain using a map, compass, and/or GPS. Field crews must work and live cooperatively at remote field basecamps-- must have strong communication skills with the ability to interact well with coworkers, and be able to work independently or as a team in remote settings. Applicants should be organized, able to follow a rigid protocol, and record detailed data in a field setting. Preferred candidates will have prior experience living and working in bear country. Qualified candidates will also have a background in wildlife biology, ecology, or other related science.

**To Apply**

Submit a cover letter detailing all large mammal capture experience, a resume, and three professional or academic references in a single document. Send all applications to: Andi Stewart at [andi.stewart@umconnect.umt.edu](mailto:andi.stewart@umconnect.umt.edu) and Nicole Bealer at [Nicole.Bealer@mt.gov](Nicole.Bealer@mt.gov%20) with the subject line “Elk Research Technician”. Deadline for application is January 6, 2025. Review of applications will begin immediately after that date.

**Contact Person** Andi Stewart

**Contact Email** [andi.stewart@umconnect.umt.edu](mailto:andi.stewart@umconnect.umt.edu)