

TITLE: FOREST WATCH COORDINATOR

Bark is seeking an experienced team member to strengthen Bark's ongoing advocacy to defend Mt. Hood National Forest in alignment with environmental justice principles.

Employment Status: 1.0 Full-Time Exempt

Salary and benefits: First year \$50,000 - \$57,000 DOE. 120 hours vacation in the first year, 80 hours annual sick leave, optional Bark employee group medical and dental up to \$500 total/month paid by employer, eligible for paid 30-day sabbatical after three years.

Location: Portland, OR – Hybrid, primarily in office and field locations

Application Period: Open until filled.

ABOUT BARK

Located in Portland, Oregon, Bark was founded in 1999. Our formal mission statement is: "To transform Mt. Hood National Forest into a place where natural processes prevail, where wildlife thrives and where local communities have a social, cultural, and economic investment in its restoration and preservation."

Bark grew out of a community centered around recreation interests paired with an understanding of western ecological science and the legal system. These origins are euro-centric and settler-colonial in perspective, and do not meet the needs or provided the values necessary to restore ecosystems and relationships between people and place.

Today, Bark recognizes the immense range of knowledges, cultures, histories, privileges, and responsibilities that inform how different communities relate to the forest. We encourage and expect all within our organization to engage in the demanding, enlightening, disorienting, empowering, uncomfortable, and deeply validating work of challenging the traditional approach environmental conservation within our individual and collective perspectives.

The name "Bark" originally refers to the role of the "barker" in society, who loudly and persistently calls for us to pay attention to issues that impact the public. Bark is the resource for community action to protect Mt. Hood National Forest and surrounding federal lands* through the power of engaged, informed, and active communities. We are a community of varied interests and experiences, ensuring that the U.S. Forest Service is justly accountable to the diverse communities that live in connection to and rely upon the forest.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Forest Watch Coordinator organizes people, information, and activities; leading Bark's defensive (Forest Watch) efforts and advocacy on forest management projects, local and federal forest policy, and public education and engagement on forest defense. The Forest Watch Coordinator serves as Bark's primary representative to the Forest Service and other relevant agencies and decision makers.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (other duties may be assigned):

National Forest Policy Act (NEPA) Project Engagement (25%)

(supported by the Forest Watch Committee and Field Coordinator)

Leads NEPA response to proposed forest management projects from Mt. Hood Forest Service and surrounding Bureau Land Management lands including pre-NEPA engagement with the federal planning agency, NEPA document analysis, planning the on-site surveys (groundtruthing), reviewing survey data, drafting and submitting NEPA comments, and coordinating with allied organizations in processes leading to litigation. Conducts groundtruthing surveys on priority areas and other in-forest field work as necessary.

Government Relations (10%)

Represents Bark in dealings/meetings/communications with the U.S Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other state and federal agencies involved in forest management policy and processes. Represents Bark in Forest Service Collaborative groups and other stakeholder spaces, builds relationships with agency specialists, planners, and line officers. May represent Bark in interactions with elected officials as needed.

Public and Volunteer Education and Engagement (20%)

(coordinated with other program staff)

Delivers and creates educational resources, trainings, workshops and events to cultivate volunteers and empower the general public and priority communities in understanding NEPA processes, forest policy, and advocacy. Co-leads in the development and delivery of Bark's Radicle Activist Training Program, specifically the Forest Watch "track" of trainings, events, and resources. Facilitates the Forest Watch Committee of core volunteers in the prioritization of proposed NEPA projects, organizing advocacy actions and events, and planning groundtruthing activities.

Communications (20%)

(coordinated with communications staff and others)

Provides core messaging and talking points for staff, Board and volunteers on key advocacy issues, regularly. Provides timely, detailed content and updates for website on NEPA projects and forest policy developments. In public communications and presentations, positions Bark as a thought leader and resource on restorative, environmentally just forest management for Mt. Hood National Forest, especially regarding public processes.

Outreach and Organizing (~15%)

Represents Bark in partnership, campaign, and coalition spaces as necessary and appropriate to the issues. For example, in the PNW Forest Climate Alliance, NW Forest Plan Coalition, or others.

General Program Admin & Miscellaneous (~10%)

Communicates with Bark's Board of Directors through regular reports and informal updates as needed. Supports fundraising activities during major campaigns. Participates in Strategic Planning.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

- A strong academic or professional background in fields or issues relevant to the Essential Functions of this position.
- 3+ years of community, volunteer, or job experience in any of the following fields: activism/organizing, environmental education, public interest advocacy, and/or involvement with campaigns aimed at influencing social or environmental policy change.
- 2+ years' experience with public communications including public speaking, teaching, community organizing, lobbying or other similar roles in with a primary function of communicating with groups/audiences as well as individuals.
- 2+ years of experience engaging with public lands management, forest management, and NEPA processes.
- 2+ years of experience conducting ecological surveys/field surveys in a conservation or TEK framework
- 1+ years of experience in direct relationship/communication role with agency, government, or elected offices and officials.
- Demonstrated experience contributing to and/or leading environmental justice-focused campaigns/efforts/initiatives

REQUIRED SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Well-developed skillsets for collaborative decision-making and accountability.
- Assertive, authentic, and considerate communication abilities.
- Proven success working independently and as part of a team.
- Top proficiency with contemporary office, internet, and communications technologies.
- Demonstrable *personal and professional* work in anti-racism and social justice.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Ability to work in office environment as needed, which requires ability to perceive and communicate with others and prepare and manage documents.
- Must be able to maintain the following for several hours at a time: use of computer or similar technology, phone, stationary position as required.
- Ability to communicate in person, over the phone and/or via computer.

- Ability and willingness to travel to regional locations and move through the forest landscape as needed. A valid driver's license is required.

BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

Bark is an equal opportunity employer. We offer a flexible, friendly, team-based environment with immediate opportunities to shape organizational strategies, competitive salary (\$50,000 – 57,000 for this position, depending on experience), and benefits package, including health and dental insurance, paid vacation days, federal holidays, paid sick leave, and a paid long-term leave policy (1 month sabbatical leave accrued for every 3 years of employment).

TO APPLY

We strongly encourage people of color, women, and LGBTQ+ applicants to apply. Please email the following as document (not pdf) attachments by Jan 21, 2023 to hire@bark-out.org.

- 1 page cover letter;
- Resume; and
- 3 professional references.

Cover letters should communicate your commitment to Bark's mission and advocacy and answer the following questions:

1. What other organizations are you a part of and how to you see Bark being different from them?
2. What are the strengths and limitations of environmental law and policy in your opinion?
3. What do you think could be your strongest contribution to Bark's work?
4. What are your thoughts on environmental justice in a National Forest context?
5. What questions do you have about this position?

Please write "Forest Watch Coordinator Application" in the subject-line of the email. To learn more about Bark, visit www.bark-out.org

We are asking for applicants to fill out a voluntary, anonymous survey that will help us know that we have reached diverse points of outreach. A link will be sent to you at some point in the process. Thank you for your help with this effort.