

Barker Ranch Waterfowl and Wetland Summer Tech Position – 2022

The Barker Ranch is a world class 2,000+ acre private duck hunting club located in West Richland, WA with over 145 duck blinds. The Ranch is in the process of a multi-year restoration project to enhance wetland and upland areas for ducks, geese, cranes, upland birds, and other wildlife species. We are looking to fill **Summer Technician** positions dealing with the duties stated below. These positions are expected to run from April/May/June through September/October time frame. We can be flexible on the start and end dates with school and other conflicts. There is a possibility of future permanent employment if the ideal candidate is found. With the experiences and connections gained while at the Ranch, a high percentage of former techs and interns have been placed in permanent jobs in biology, range management, habitat management, conservation law enforcement, and more.

The ideal candidate will have a love of waterfowl and waterfowl hunting, a good work ethic, and have basic knowledge of the operation of farm tools and equipment. Pay starts at \$15.00/hour for Summer Techs. TBR has new facilities which include a 150x50 shop, office, high speed internet, satellite TV, conference room, kitchen, restrooms, showers, and is located only minutes from a major population area with lots of entertainment and social activities. A plethora of outdoor recreational activities are found in the area with rivers and mountains a reasonable drive away. Temporary onsite RV housing is available. To apply, please send a resume, or letter of job qualifications, and three references to barkerranch@frontier.com.

1. Duties:

- a. Execute daily work plan
- b. Building, repairing, and maintaining duck blinds
- c. Assist in wildlife food plot and habitat management activities
- d. Conducting moist soil management
- e. Assist in wetland restoration activities
- f. Installing new water control structures
- g. Cleaning and maintaining irrigation ditches and water control structures
- h. Spraying noxious weeds and trees
- i. General yard and park maintenance
- j. Other manual labor as assigned

2. Must be proficient in or willing to learn to operate:

- a. Truck
- b. ATV
- c. Power hand tools
- d. Other farm equipment

3. Desired qualifications:

- a. Knowledge and experience in basic equipment operation and maintenance
- b. Knowledge and experience in waterfowl hunting and/or management
- c. Own a smartphone and know how to use smartphone apps

4. Must have the ability to:

- a. Physically work long hours in hot or inclement weather with the possibility of bugs, ticks, snakes, or other critters
- b. Take directions and complete a task on time
- c. Work well with others in a group

5. Must:

- a. Have a valid driver's license
- b. Speak fluent English
- c. Submit to random drug and/or alcohol test
- d. Be fully vaccinated against Covid-19

Summer Techs will be highly involved in prepping, planting, irrigating, and spraying of wildlife food plots consisting of corn, barley, sunflower, and millet, as well as conducting moist soil management and weed control in over 100 moist soil units. Maintenance and installation of duck blinds will be conducted after the food plots and moist soil units are ready.

Prior to Covid-19, Tech's have gotten a chance to listen to and speak with the following individuals on Ranch tours:

- Bill Northey – US Under Secretary of Agriculture, Washington DC
- Dan Newhouse – US Congressman, Washington DC
- Brad Bortner – Former Chief of Migratory Birds for the USFWS, Washington DC
- Leonard Jordan – Former Chief of Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington DC
- Kevin Norton – Acting Chief of Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington DC
- Derek Sandison – WA State Department of Agriculture Director, Olympia, WA
- Many biologists from Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, USFWS, NWTF, etc.
- Financial advisors
- Many more

Quotes from Wetland and Waterfowl Icons about Barker Ranch

Leigh H. Fredrickson – “The Barker Ranch offers an example of some of the best food production and habitat conditions to provide resources for migrant and wintering waterfowl in the Pacific Northwest. For those interested in the nuances of effective land management for wetland resources and especially waterfowl, the management staff of the Barker Ranch offers a unique opportunity for the inexperienced to hone their skills in the many aspects of land management on private property with a unique hydrologic setting in a western floodplain.”

Brad Bortner – “Barker Ranch is one of the premier properties in the United States solely devoted to waterfowl management. A summer internship will expose interns to the cutting edge of waterfowl habitat management and all aspects of private land management.”

Quotes from prior Summer Techs

Caleb Amacker - "The Barker Ranch is unique in the way it uses private lands and government programs to proficiently establish waterfowl habitat. Combining agriculture and naturally occurring moist soil impoundments creates a variety of forage for waterfowl. The ranch is one of a kind and a hidden gem in the Pacific Northwest. My experience has given me lessons in waterfowl management that I can use in my future conservation careers".

Trevor Bentley - “The Barker Ranch is a true testament to the saying, “If you build it they will come”. This summer I gained the ability to practice moist soil management in one of the driest parts of the country, while building a world-class waterfowl haven”.

Nick Hoffard - “The opportunity to work at Barker Ranch gave me the knowledge and skills to properly plan and manage moist soil ponds to create one of the most unique and diverse wetland habitats you can find. Seeing the summers work pay off in October when the ducks start to pile in is an experience and feeling I will never forget”.

Rich Cain - "The Barker Ranch provided me with an incredible working and living environment. While in Washington I learned many of the crucial components of wetland management. I was provided access to free housing and other facilities, the Yakima River and 2000+ acres of diverse wildlife habitat. This not only allowed me to afford working here but also enjoy every moment of it. My expectations were exceeded by far".

William Moody – “You will learn everything in waterfowl habitat management to equipment management to hunting club management. Maintaining such a large waterfowl Haven is no walk in the park. The hours are long and the work can be exhausting at times, but keeping the big picture in mind will make it worth it. The relationships made there will go farther than just the summer work. Doors have continued to open for me since leaving that would not have opened for me if I would not have made that trip to Washington. If you are looking to start a career in this field, a summer here will teach you more than any class room can. There are few other places in the world that give students this kind of opportunity to step into this career”.

Michael Crowder

General Manager/Shareholder – Barker Ranch

President-elect – National Association of Conservation Districts

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