

revive & restore

GENETIC RESCUE OF ENDANGERED
AND EXTINCT SPECIES

May 2022

ANNOUNCING AN OPEN POSITION

Director of Conservation Innovation

This position represents an exciting opportunity to bring innovative genomic solutions to both long-standing and novel conservation needs. An attractive candidate will have a broad understanding of genomics and conservation and recognize that the pace of environmental change demands innovation.

Job Description

The Director of Conservation Innovation is a senior level position within Revive & Restore and reports to the Executive Director to envision, develop and expand the application of advanced genomic technologies for biodiversity conservation and restoration.

The Director of Conservation Innovation works in concert with the Director of R&D to guide molecular scientists, conservation biologists, agencies, and conservation organizations in the development and use of genomic and biotech innovations for conservation. An important responsibility of the position is identifying major capability gaps that are limiting our ability to solve important conservation challenges. Revive & Restore is involved with specific projects to advance the use and adoption of genomic and biotech innovations for conservation. A key function for this position is to bring strategic direction to the selection and development of these initiatives and programs. To that end, the position works with the Executive Director to identify and secure funding to advance program capacity.

Revive & Restore is a small and dynamic organization that approaches its objectives from multiple sides. This is a fast-paced work environment that gives team members the chance to contribute to the mission in a variety of ways. We seek to recruit highly trained experts that appreciate a diversity of challenges and enjoy expanding their skills outside of their current expertise.

Job Responsibilities

Evaluate, Design, and Advise Catalyst Science Fund Projects

Revive & Restore's Catalyst Science Fund awards grants to innovative researchers to advance the science and practice of genetic rescue. The ideal candidate will contribute to these activities by:

- identifying and developing innovative conservation applications for emerging genomic tools;

- serving as a subject matter expert in conservation biology and practice during proposal review, identifying and evaluating the potential conservation impact for each proposal;
- initiating and managing any necessary permits (e.g. ESA, NEPA) with relevant government agencies; and collaborating with the Executive Director and Catalyst Science Fund Director.

Develop & Expand Partnerships

Revive & Restore has several valuable strategic partnerships with NGO's and government agencies and throughout the conservation and biotechnology communities. The ideal candidate will work with the Executive Director to leverage those relationships to promote the use of genetic rescue techniques by:

- exploring/envisioning possibilities for genomic innovations with various conservation organizations and government organizations;
- determining the funding requirements and implementation barriers for each project (e.g. social acceptance and regulatory pathways) and designing potential strategies to navigate those barriers;
- communicating, documenting, and archiving project activities; and
- acting as a liaison between partners, project management teams, and contractors to ensure the project goal remains aligned with all stakeholder needs and expectations.

Support Outreach & External Relations

Educating others on the potential applications and benefits of genetic rescue is a major part of the Revive & Restore mission. Our Director of Conservation Innovation will have the opportunity to contribute to outreach by:

- clearly communicating Revive & Restore's unique organizational role in biodiversity conservation- both with the public (website) and with professional organizations;
- participating in key science meetings and conferences to promote the acceptance of advanced genomic approaches to support biodiversity conservation/restoration; and
- advancing discourse concerning the ethical, regulatory and conservation elements involved with biotechnology applications in conservation.

Strategy and Development

Revive & Restore is rapidly growing through partnerships with other organizations and private funders. The Director of Conservation Innovation will contribute to the growth and long-term strategy of Revive & Restore by:

- developing long-range program plans in collaboration with the Executive Director and the Board;
- working with the Executive Director to identify, cultivate, and steward institutional, individual and agency opportunities for funding;

- applying for grant requests and soliciting funding from potential donors; and
- seeking potential in-kind support for relevant elements of R&R's work program.

Requirements

- The ideal candidate will have an entrepreneurial and problem-solving mindset, matched with significant experience working in cutting-edge science.
- We are seeking highly motivated individuals with graduate degree (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) or equivalent qualification (significant relevant work experience equivalent to post-graduate degree experience).
- A broad understanding of genomics and conservation is essential
- Field experience in conservation is preferred (working with private land owners, NGOs, local state agencies, and/or federal agencies).
- Laboratory experience in population or conservation genomics a plus
- Relevant science fields include ecology and evolutionary biology, comparative genomics, population genomics, ancient DNA, wildlife/veterinary health, reproductive biology, and genome engineering.
- The candidate should be a team player with excellent communication skills, leadership ability, initiative, sound judgment, and creative originality. An overactive imagination is a plus.
- Experience in conceiving, planning, budgeting, fundraising, and managing projects is also required.

Salary: Competitive salary and commensurate with experience.

Location and Availability

This can be a fully remote position or hybrid if the candidate resides in the San Francisco Bay Area allowing for more in-person interaction with the local office team. Travel will be expected for speaking engagements, business development, science conferences, fundraising and for some quarterly staff / board meetings in the San Francisco Bay Area

Start Date: As soon as possible.

How to Apply:

Please submit your application to marmee@reviverestore.org

Applications that do not include the following items will not be considered:

- 1) A cover letter addressed to our Executive Director, Ryan Phelan
- 2) Include in your cover letter an innovative example of where/ how you think genomic technologies can/should be applied to solve a significant conservation problem.
- 3) Your C.V. attached as a PDF

About Revive & Restore

[Revive & Restore](#) is a Sausalito, California-based nonprofit. The core team has spent the past ten years working with 300+ scientists to develop the emerging field of biotechnology-based genetic rescue, acting

as a catalyst, a facilitator, and as a funder. Our mission is to develop and apply genomic technologies for biodiversity conservation, specifically for endangered and extinct species, with the overall goal of enhancing global biodiversity and ecosystem health. To do so, we work with a wide range of professionals ranging from conservation biologists, molecular biologists, veterinarians, to bioethicists and communications experts.

Revive & Restore is perhaps best known for advancing long-term projects that aspire to bring species back from extinction by using gene editing techniques—notably the passenger pigeon, the heath hen, and the woolly mammoth. However, the more immediate mandate is to develop and apply genetic tools to help prevent species extinction and to help enhance species recovery. These include: “genetic insight” (state-of-the-art genomic analysis for in situ and ex situ population and ecosystem level management and monitoring), cryopreservation of cell cultures from at-risk wild populations, advanced reproductive techniques (mammalian cloning), and advanced gene-editing techniques for population health and facilitated adaptation.