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Dr. Laurie Marker

Founder/Executive Director

Cheetah Conservation Fund

P.O. Box 1755

Otjiwarongo, Namibia

Dear Dr. Marker,

Thank you for considering my application to volunteer with your organization. Volunteering and helping the Cheetah Conservation Fund to conserve this crucial apex predator and its habitat would be a privilege, achievement of a long-held career goal, and a challenge for which my skillset and deep experience are very well suited. I bring a unique blend of collaborative leadership, positive visioning, enthusiasm, pragmatism, and dedication to wildlife conservation. It would be my pleasure to serve the Mission of the Cheetah Conservation Fund in Namibia. Africa is a continent I have visited often to perform volunteer field work in wildlife conservation, and that has a special place in my heart. My ultimate goal is to relocate to southern or eastern Africa and work in the arenas of wildlife conservation and capacity building.

My education and career experience is in natural resource conservation, specifically wildlife and fisheries management. I have worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) in a number of positions at all levels from Headquarters in Washington, D.C. to regional and field offices in Idaho, Montana, Alaska, New Mexico, and currently in Portland, Oregon. I am a graduate of the Service’s Advanced Leadership Development Program, and I engage with that program to train and mentor new Service leaders. My current position is Chief of the Aquatic Habitat Conservation Program in our Pacific Region Office in Portland, Oregon where I oversee Fisheries programs that serve 26 field stations and their 250 staff as they produce salmon and other fish species and protect aquatic habitats. My team oversees data management and analysis, training design and implementation, policy and program development and management, and volunteer and outreach coordination. I previously held the position of Deputy Assistant Regional Director for Ecological Services in the Service’s Southwest Region, where I supervised 6 field offices comprised of approximately 200 staff in four States.

I am driven by a strong work ethic that is based in service to others and to conservation of our planet’s precious natural resources. Human populations must be healthy and self-sustaining before progress can be achieved to conserve natural resources. I understand the importance of this interrelation, especially in Africa where populations are increasing and are placing greater demands on the land for sustenance. It is my deep desire to work in Namibia to help with the important campaigns that you are leading for cheetah and other imperiled African wildlife. My leadership and managerial experience are well suited to the responsibilities of the position, and I love to work with African cultures and multi-cultural and diverse staffs to empower them to learn, grow, and reach their goals. I lead by example and strongly advocate for, and mentor, others.

In my personal life I enjoy any outdoor activity including hiking, skiing, fishing, and adventure travel. I am a life-long learner with a lot of energy and a positive open-minded approach to life and working with diverse cultures. I am physically strong, am in excellent health, and I thrive on field work in the African bush. Thank you again for your consideration of my application.

Best Regards,

Johnna Roy