POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC), the natural resource agency for the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, seeks an experienced professional to work in habitat protection.

TITLE: HABITAT PROTECTION ECOLOGIST

REPORTING TO: Habitat Protection Director

GENERAL: Reviews local, state, and federal permit applications for impacts to tribal resources in freshwater and marine environments. Drafts comment letters to regulatory agencies in response to permit applications. Meets with local, state, and federal agencies to develop mitigation alternatives for projects that impact tribal resources. Reviews and provides technical comments on proposed changes in regulations.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Reviews permit applications at the federal, state, and local government level for impacts to tribal resources and prepare written response letters advocating protection of those resources. Field review as needed.

2. Develops in-depth knowledge of numerous pertinent federal, state and local regulatory packages such as Washington Hydraulic Code, Shoreline Management Act, and local critical areas.

3. Gathers information from a number of sources; acts on or refers pertinent information to director; prepares and maintains various records and reports for the program.

4. Represents SRSC and member tribes in a variety of settings; serves as point of contact in regard to permit-specific correspondence with other governmental agencies, community members, and other groups or individuals.

5. Meets with local, state and federal agencies to develop mitigation alternatives for projects that impact tribal resources.
6. Supports other SRSC departments on project-specific resource protection alternatives.

7. Manages the permit database for long-term permit tracking; documents and tracks permit violations; conducts technical analyses on geospatial patterns and/or long-term trends.

8. Develops strategies and implementation plans for resource mitigation and protection with Habitat Protection Director.

9. Provides technical support to environmental staff and policy at both member tribes; conducts technical briefings for policy representatives.

10. Provides technical review of proposed changes to local, state, and federal regulations. Attends agency and tribal review meetings of proposed regulation changes and advocate tribal positions.

11. Performs other duties and responsibilities assigned by supervisor.

Qualifications and preferences:

SRSC, as a tribal organization, maintains the tribal preference policy for those candidates who are enrolled tribal members.

Education: Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource related fields (fisheries, geology, aquatic ecology, environmental planning etc.), Master’s degree preferred.

Experience: Five to seven years working experience in natural resource management, fisheries science or environmental planning is required. Previous experience working for a tribal organization is desirable. Experience in permit review and working with state and local environmental ordinances and statutes is also desirable. Advanced education may substitute.

Skills and Abilities:
- Excellent oral and written communication skills;
- Capacity to read and understand government codes and regulations; and project plans and drawings;
- Accurate record keeping ability;
- Understanding of fisheries and habitat needs of Pacific salmon;
- Experience supporting the design of fish passage structures and culverts is desirable;
- Computer skills with MS Office, ArcGIS, and database software;
- Ability to work and communicate well with state, local and federal agencies and advocate protection of tribal resources;
Fisheries and Environmental Services Management for the Sauk-Suiattle and Swinomish Indian Tribes

- Sensitivity to the Native American culture, customs and traditions;
- Possession of valid Washington driver’s license and must be insurable;
- Ability to comply with the Drug Free Workplace Act.

**Working Conditions:** The Habitat Protection Ecologist reports to the SRSC field office in Burlington, WA. The typical work schedule is 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday. Field work requires the ability to work in varying weather conditions and navigate uneven terrain, steep slopes, streams, marshy areas, and other field conditions.

**Salary Range:** $5,000-$6,200/month + benefits, DOQ

Application Date: Please submit application materials prior to August 15. Leading applicants will be identified in early August 2023, though later submittals will be considered as needed.

Send letter of interest and resume (by mail or email) to:

Skagit River System Cooperative  
Attn: Janette Crume  
P.O. Box 368  
La Conner, WA 98257  
(360) 466-4047  
jcrume@skagitcoop.org

*Indian preference applies to this recruitment.*