



Skagit River System Cooperative

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MULTIPLE POSITION VACANCIES

Title: Research Natural Resource Technicians
PART TIME/SEASONAL/ON CALL
3-6 months with possibility of extension

Reporting Authority: Biologist or Senior Research Scientist

Job Description: Support a variety of SRSC projects in the collection and compilation of samples and/or data for salmon related research.

ABOUT SRSC

Skagit River System Cooperative (SRSC) is currently recruiting Research Natural Resource Technicians for the 2025 field season. SRSC provides natural resource management services for the Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe and the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community. On behalf of these two sovereign nations, SRSC works to actively improve fisheries management within their usual and accustomed fishing areas. Fisheries management carried out by SRSC includes stock assessment, hatchery support, salmon recovery research, environmental review, habitat restoration, and a range of other activities. Find out more about us and the important work we are a part of at: www.skagitcoop.org.

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES:

In this position you will support SRSC's mission of salmon recovery in the Skagit River watershed through a variety of fisheries research field data collection activities, most commonly on a Monday-Thursday schedule. A typical day is 8-12 hours and might begin as early as 4 but usually starts at 7 am depending on water conditions and the task at hand. We collect data on juvenile fish in habitats throughout the Skagit watershed and Whidbey Basin, from estuary and nearshore habitats to river floodplains and upland streams. We observe, collect, identify, measure, and release juvenile salmon and non-salmon species, as well as collect physical habitat data and water quality. These data are typically used in project-specific effectiveness monitoring or as reference data for larger spatial status and trend questions. In general, we investigate whether habitat restoration actions increase salmon use of estuary or floodplain sites and ultimately increase salmon populations.

To be successful in this job, you'll need to be comfortable doing strenuous physical work, outside in both pleasant and inclement conditions, in remote locations without cell service. You will conduct fisheries field techniques that can include beach seining, fyke trapping, smolt

Fisheries and Environmental Services Management for the Sauk-Suiattle and Swinomish Indian Tribes

trapping, snorkel surveys, boat and backpack electrofishing, spawn ground surveys, habitat assessment, and water quality monitoring. You'll need to do physical tasks that might include hauling, lifting, post pounding, field construction, boat operation, hiking in remote backcountry situations, wading in estuaries and swift flowing streams, site clearance, preparation, carpentry, etc. You must learn to identify common fishes found in the Skagit River and the Skagit Estuary, including handling and transport fishes in 5-gallon buckets. It is helpful but not necessary to have experience in operation and maintenance of nets, boats, trailers, vehicles and other field equipment. There is a possibility of occasional voluntary overnight camping stays and/or mountain bicycling to access more remote sites. As a part of this job you will record, compile and maintain field records and notes including logbooks, data sheets and electronic data collection equipment. You may be asked to assist in the preparation of reports or perform other duties and responsibilities that may be assigned by a Field Biologist, Biologist, Research Scientist, Program Directors and/or the SRSC Board.

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education: High School Diploma or GED, some college preferred.

Experience: Experience working outside in various conditions, working with listed field sampling techniques and/or field equipment, boat handling and/or operation, and mechanical or construction skills preferred.

Required Skills and Abilities:

- ❖ Must be able to carry at least 50 lbs. of awkward equipment over uneven terrain for up to 7 miles in a day on a daily basis
- ❖ Must be able to wade and walk in swift water conditions and intertidal areas including deltas, beaches and mudflats
- ❖ Ability to operate sharp tools and power equipment safely
- ❖ Must be willing to work early morning, daytime, evening, night shifts or weekends as river flows, tides, and seasonal fish behavior require
- ❖ Must be willing to work in harsh environments under various weather conditions
- ❖ Must be willing to work from watercraft on the Skagit River and its tributaries (whitewater class 2 for jet boat and class 3 for cataraft), and in the Whidbey Basin including estuary and nearshore areas
- ❖ Must be willing to work in remote wilderness settings without cell coverage
- ❖ Must be willing to clean, repair, and maintain equipment that can include field equipment, boats and trailers as needed after the end of a long day
- ❖ Good oral and written communication skills in person and by phone and text
- ❖ Accurate record keeping ability
- ❖ Proficiency in the use of computers is desirable
- ❖ Sensitivity to Native American culture, customs, and traditions
- ❖ Ability to comply with the Drug Free Workplace Act
- ❖ Must have a valid Washington State Driver's License and must be insurable

Salary: \$20.03/hour

APPLYING:

To obtain an application: Visit the website www.skagitcoop.org *Employment Opportunities* page, or phone 360-982-1409.

Send a letter of interest **AND** either a resume or SRSC Employment Application form to:

Skagit River System Cooperative
ATTN: Catherine Austin
P.O. Box 368
La Conner, WA 98257-0368

OR

Email: caustin@skagitcoop.org

Application Deadline: Rolling application review upon receipt

Start Date: TBD

INDIAN PREFERENCE APPLIES TO THIS RECRUITMENT