

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Cascade Fisheries is hiring 2 field technicians for the Okanogan Basin Fish Passage Barrier Assessment



February 2021

Project Description

Cascade Fisheries (CF) is one of fourteen non-profit Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups in Washington. The program was created by the State Legislature (RCW 77.95.060) in 1990 in response to dwindling salmon and steelhead populations. CF improves conditions for native fish in North Central Washington through habitat enhancement, education and community engagement. To learn more about CF, visit our website www.ccfeg.org.

CF is recruiting two full-time, seasonal, field technician positions based out of Okanogan, WA. These positions will participate in fish passage inventories designed to locate and assess human-made instream features that may pose a passage problem for native fish in the Okanogan watershed. Barrier assessments will be done using survey equipment following Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) protocols. Fish passage inventories support prioritization and implementation of future fish passage improvement projects. This project will cover all fish-bearing streams in the Okanogan River Basin, on both private (with permission) and public lands.

Position Details

Field technicians assist a crew lead in conducting on-site evaluations (e.g. structure dimensions, slope, velocity, substrate composition) using prescribed protocols and procedures to assess human-made structures such as culverts, dams, bridges, fishways, and surface water diversions on streams.

Surveys will be conducted on private and public lands, on-foot and by vehicle. Some days will involve hiking several miles upstream in small brushy creeks, while others will involve assessing sites that are easily accessible by vehicle.

This is a field position, with approximately 90% of the work to be conducted in the field, for roughly 13 weeks from April through June. Approximately 10% of the work is spent in the office entering and quality checking data and reaching out to private landowners to request access permission. Work schedule is typically 7:00 AM – 5:30 PM, Monday – Thursday, however scheduling is flexible. The start date for these positions is expected to be April 5, 2021 and run through June, with the possibility of extension based on need and budget.

Principle Activities

- Travel to sites on streams to collect barrier data using standardized survey methods following set protocol. Data will be entered in the field using tablets and then quality checked in the office.
- Conduct physical habitat assessments (e.g. stream width, depth, and substrate) to evaluate the extent of habitat suitability for fish in streams associated with stream crossings.
- Interact with private landowners to request access to property for surveys and communicate project goals.
- Work with project partners, develop project maps, ensure efficient logistics for field work and office tasks.



For more information, contact CF Project Manager Kristen Kirkby at kristen@ccfeg.org or 509-449-2346.

OKANOGAN BARRIER ASSESSMENT 2021 FIELD TECHNICIAN JOB ANOUNCEMENT



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Qualifications

Education

- Bachelors degree with college coursework involving major study in natural sciences or closely allied field. A college degree is not required, however it is preferred.
- Or a HS diploma or GED including one year of high school science, and several of experience as a Scientific Technician or equivalent.
- College coursework may substitute or experience provided the coursework includes at least six semester hours or nine quarter hours of natural or environmental science classes.
- A valid driver's license.

Working Conditions

- The successful candidate must be willing and able to adapt to flexible work schedules, work along busy state highways or out of phone service on public land back roads, work long hours in adverse weather conditions, and walk streams to take measurements. Walking streams requires safely moving through thick vegetation, climbing over and around log jams and walking on uneven terrain and slippery surfaces while carrying up to 30lbs of field gear.
- Technicians must be comfortable reaching out to and communicating with private landowners to request access for survey work.
- Ability to safely operate motor vehicles.

Competencies

- Understanding of the freshwater habitat requirements and life histories of local native fish.
- Ability to perform precise and efficient data collection using survey equipment and tablets.
- Ability to interpret aerial and topographic maps, and to navigate using maps and GPS.
- Effective communication with coworkers, partners, and the public.
- Must be self-motivated, reliable, punctual, and demonstrate good scientific ethics and integrity.

Preferred/Desired Qualifications

- Professional experience conducting field research following prescribed methodology, preferably in the Pacific Northwest.
- Knowledge of: principles and procedures of research; use of GPS units or other devices for collecting data in the field.
- Ability to: communicate effectively and positively in potentially volatile interactions with private landowners; encourage and maintain team cohesiveness; act safely and decisively in the field; adapt to challenges in order to complete project objectives; accept supervision and work independently; develop and maintain positive, productive, respectful working relationships with coworkers, collaborators, and local landowners; tolerate difficult and sometimes tedious work conditions; abide by all applicable organizational policies.

Compensation/Benefits

- Compensation will be \$17.00-\$19.00 per hour depending on qualifications.
- Paid federal holidays.
- Washington State paid sick leave.

Interested applicants should submit a cover letter, resume, and 3 professional references to Kristen Kirkby, Cascade Fisheries, by 5pm, March 8th, 2020. Materials should be emailed to kristen@ccfeg.org. Interviews are expected to be held on or around March 11th-12th.