



Field Technician, Short-Term

Duration & Time Commitment: June 2021 – September 2021

Salary Range: \$20/hour

Job Classification: Short-Term

Supervisor: Principal Wetlands Scientist

Location: Astoria, Oregon

OVERVIEW. *The Estuary Partnership has a well-established ecosystem monitoring, action effectiveness monitoring, and restoration programs. Under our Ecosystem Monitoring Program, we collect habitat structure, hydrology, fish, food web, and abiotic condition data annually at five relatively undisturbed emergent marsh habitats of the lower Columbia River. Under our Action Effectiveness Monitoring Program, we collect a subset of similar metrics that allow us to assess the effectiveness of habitat restoration actions. Under our Restoration Program we collect site condition data to use in hydrologic and ecological functions models to assess feasibility of various restoration design scenarios. These programs started in 2003 and have expanded and evolved in that time to nine science team staff with diverse educational and professional backgrounds and experiences. Our team works with multiple top notch academic and public agency researchers to ensure state of the art scientific methods.*

POSITION SUMMARY

The Field Technician works with the Estuary Partnership's ecosystem monitoring and habitat restoration action effectiveness monitoring programs. The position primarily collects monitoring data and assists with sample processing and data management activities.

This position offers a great opportunity to gain professional field experience to those pursuing a career in the natural resource conservation or related field. The intent of this position is to provide valuable experience in basic and advanced field data collection, processing and management experience that will support future career goals. We place a priority on applications from candidates who come from or have experience with diverse populations and underserved communities, including communities of color and low-income communities.

The Field Technician is part of a larger team that implements components of the Estuary Partnership Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan, biennial workplans, and six-year implementation strategies for technical programs, including restoration, monitoring, and data.

Employees in this position interact regularly with all Estuary Partnership staff, Estuary Partnership partners, staff from other agencies and organizations, contractors, technical experts, and the public.

Work Environment. This position requires outdoor work in all weather conditions, navigating difficult terrain on foot and carrying field gear to monitoring sites. Most work takes place in a field setting in wetlands, on the river, and requires regular travel to locations throughout the Estuary Partnership study area between Bonneville Dam and the Pacific Ocean in Oregon and Washington. This position also involves spending a considerable amount of time in a laboratory, assisting with field sample processing

and equipment calibration. The position requires a valid driver's license and will be housed with the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) in Astoria, OR.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

- Knowledge or experience related to natural resource or watershed management, hydrology, water quality, marine sciences, biology, habitat conservation, or related field.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office products, especially Excel and Word.
- One year or more experience (which can be a combination of student course and/or work experience) adhering to established data collection protocols, entering data, and utilization of excel formulae.
- Strong technical communication skills with attention to detail for verbal and written communication about data collection, processing, and data entry tasks.
- Strong interpersonal communication skills and diversity, equity and inclusion awareness for verbal and written communication with diverse populations, including project partners, staff, volunteers, youth, and the general public.
- Demonstrated ability to do work independently and collaboratively as a team member.
- Ability and willingness to work outdoors and in inclement weather. Comfort working in and around water; navigating difficult terrain, including mud flats and tall grass; and collecting monitoring data in a variety of conditions, ranging from cold and wet to hot and humid weather.
- Must be able to accommodate early morning starts, occasional weekend availability, and overnight travel as data collection requires.
- Must have valid driver's license, with willingness to drive to and from field sites located throughout the lower Columbia River.
- Must be able to accommodate processing wetland biomass samples and maintaining field equipment in the CREST lab located in Astoria, Oregon. Astoria, Oregon will be the base of operation for this position.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Collect field data to assess ecosystem conditions, fish use, habitat restoration feasibility, and site conditions, including: deployment and retrieval of data loggers, identify vegetation, fish collection, using GPS, and data entry.
- Process vegetation biomass samples collected from the field in a laboratory setting and accurately enter data in an excel format
- Prepare metadata and manage data in provided formats.
- Manage work assignments; ensure appropriate completion of timelines, deadlines, project objectives and tasks.
- Regular travel throughout the lower Columbia River area to conduct field work. Occasional after hours and weekend work is required.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES

- Prepare project reports and presentations, as directed.
- Participate in team meetings to discuss and advance program objectives, enhance collaboration, and identify resource needs required to complete projects.
- Participate in the Science Work Group.

ORGANIZATION STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

- Place the river and public trust at the forefront. Support and promote the mission and work of the Estuary Partnership. Be familiar with the activities of all Estuary Partnership program areas, the lower Columbia River and the National Estuary Program, natural resource protection, and community programming.
- Cultivate a positive work ethic and team environment. Exhibit a positive attitude and high level of professionalism.
- Support Estuary Partnership employees, Board members, volunteers, and partners.
- Provide exceptional service, internally and externally. Adapt and continually improve.
- Attend work regularly and on-time.
- Include diverse populations and underserved communities, including communities of color and low-income communities, to improve racial, gender, and cultural responsiveness when working with colleagues and partners and in carrying out job duties and responsibilities.