Research Technician, Limited Duration

Salary Range: $23-25/hour, depending on experience
Job Classification: Limited Duration - June 2024 – September 2024
Hours: Minimum of 40 Hours per Week
Supervisor: Chief Scientist
Location: Portland, Oregon
Application Due Date: Monday May 13th, 2024

Position Information:
The Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership has well-established ecosystem monitoring, action effectiveness monitoring, and restoration programs. The Ecosystem Monitoring Program collects habitat structure, hydrology, fish, food web, and abiotic condition data annually at five relatively undisturbed emergent marsh habitats of the lower Columbia River. The Action Effectiveness Monitoring Program collects a subset of similar metrics to assess the effectiveness of habitat restoration actions. The Restoration Program collects site condition data to use in hydrologic and ecological functions models to assess the feasibility of various restoration design scenarios. These programs started in 2003 and have evolved and expanded to a science team with diverse educational and professional backgrounds and experiences.

The Estuary Partnership established a new project in 2021 to examine carbon sequestration and methane emissions in restored and undisturbed wetlands in the lower Columbia River. Our goal for the Soil Carbon and Methane (CH4C) project is to identify the habitats that have the most potential for sequestering carbon in relation to methane emissions, and how environmental conditions correlate with methane emissions and carbon sequestration. The study also aims to develop a comprehensive understanding of above and below-ground carbon stores in wetlands and refine methane and carbon monitoring methods in the lower Columbia's tidal wetlands.

Our team works with multiple academic and public agency researchers to ensure state-of-the-art scientific methods.

POSITION SUMMARY
The Research Technician works with the Estuary Partnership's Ecosystem, Action Effectiveness and Restoration Monitoring programs, and the CH4C study. The position primarily collects monitoring data and assists with data quality assurance, management, and analyses.

This position offers a great opportunity to gain professional field and lab experience to those pursuing a career in natural resource conservation or related fields. This position provides valuable experience in basic and advanced field data collection, processing, and management 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.

Work Environment. This position is based with the Estuary Partnership out of our Portland, Oregon office. The work will regularly take place in a field setting that requires regular travel throughout the Estuary Partnership study area between Bonneville Dam and the Pacific Ocean along both the Oregon and Washington sides of the Columbia River. It often requires early morning starts and occasional weekends. Fieldwork occurs in wetlands or on the river, in various weather conditions, and includes navigating difficult terrain on foot and carrying field gear to monitoring sites. This position also involves spending a considerable amount of time in a laboratory setting processing field samples and calibrating equipment. This position also includes data entry and data analysis using excel as well as the potential to expand into processing UAV imagery and rectification in ArcSuite. The position requires a valid driver's license.

REQUIRED EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE

- Recent graduate or currently pursuing a degree related to natural resource or watershed management, including hydrology, water quality, marine sciences, biology, habitat conservation, statistics, data analysis, UAV, or related field.
- One year or more experience (which can be a combination of student course and/or work experience) collecting and analyzing field data and applying analytical approaches to evaluate ecosystem conditions, fish use, and site conditions.
- One year or more experience (which can be a combination of student course and/or work experience) adhering to established data processing protocols and using Excel for basic data entry and management; using and manipulating statistics software; sample design; and collecting, managing, and analyzing data; reporting results and methodologies.
- Experience with mapping software Pix4D, ArcMap, and/or ArcPro (can be a combination of student course and/or work experience).
- Interest and willingness to work outdoors and in inclement weather. Comfort working in and around water; carrying heavy equipment (up to 50 lbs) while navigating difficult terrain, including mudflats and tall grass; and collecting monitoring data in a variety of conditions ranging from cold and wet to hot and humid weather.
- Flexibility and availability for early morning starts, overnight stays, and occasional weekend work schedules.
- Working individually and collaboratively both when remote and in-person.
- Strong written and verbal communication skills. The ability to communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with diverse populations, project partners, staff, volunteers, youth, and the general public.
- A valid driver's license.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Complete assigned work; manage and track simultaneous projects, meeting all deadlines and objectives; adhere to organization policies and procedures; and respond to feedback from supervisor and team members.
- Communicate regularly with supervisor and team members on the development and delivery of programs.

- Collect, analyze, and manage field data to assess ecosystem conditions, fish use, habitat restoration feasibility, and site conditions (e.g., deployment and retrieval of data loggers, vegetation identification, fish collection, GPS surveying, and other as-needed field tasks).
- Assist with and write project reports and updates, technical documents, disseminate program or project information, and make presentations on project or program information.
- Regular travel throughout the lower Columbia River area to conduct fieldwork. Occasional after-hours and weekend work is required.

RELATED DUTIES

- Prepare project reports and presentations as directed.
- Participate in all-staff meetings.
- 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.
- Other related duties as assigned.

ORGANIZATION STANDARDS OF PERFORMANCE

- All Estuary Partnership employees build and strengthen partnerships and foster collaboration with a variety of viewpoints and diverse interests to serve all communities and give people parity and equal engagement with and in the protection of natural resources. 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.
- Implement actions within our Strategic Plan and DEI Strategy to identify and remove barriers for underserved communities in our programming.
- Include diverse and underserved communities, such as communities of color, Indigenous people, 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.
- Cultivate a positive work ethic and inclusive work environment. Exhibit a positive attitude and high level of professionalism.