

Opportunity for Summer Fisheries Field Experience

The Schindler Lab is seeking two undergraduate students to assist with summer field work studying steelhead in the Upper Skagit River, Washington.

Juvenile steelhead emerge in large numbers from the gravel in spring and early summer as fry. This project seeks to understand more about the early lives of these steelhead fry by tracking juvenile dispersal from redds (nests) during the first summer of life.

Field work will take place in the mainstem Upper Skagit and two of its tributaries near Marblemount, Washington. Technicians will assist a graduate student track juvenile steelhead dispersal by conducting snorkel counts and collecting young of the year steelhead by backpack electrofishing. Technicians will also assist in taking a variety of physical habitat measurements. Field sites are not particularly remote but will be accessed by cross country hiking or by raft depending on the location.

The work will be outdoors in variable weather conditions. It is possible that sampling may not be possible on some days due to high flows and/or water clarity but otherwise will take place rain or shine. Duties may be moderately strenuous and tedious at times so applicants should enjoy being outside and have an interest in aquatic systems and/or fisheries. Applicants should be able to hike several miles in a day over variable terrain carrying a light backpack, although most days will not entail long hikes. Most snorkeling will take place in shallow, low velocity areas near the stream bank, so no special swimming experience is required however the ability to swim and tolerate being in a wetsuit for several hours a day is a must. It is likely that nighttime snorkeling will be necessary at some sites so applicants should be willing to snorkel in dusk and at night using dive lights.

Training will be provided for juvenile salmonid ID, snorkel techniques, electrofishing techniques, habitat measurement, proper use of equipment and other duties as required.

Logistics

The positions will start June 20th and run through September 16th and will be 40 hours a week. The schedule will be 10 hour days, Mon-Thurs and will be entirely field based. There will be some flexibility in the schedule but applicants who are able to make the entire summer will be strongly preferred.

Weekly mileage can be reimbursed from Seattle, but no housing is provided in the Skagit, although camping opportunities are plentiful. While it is possible to commute from the Seattle area daily, it would not be considered part of the daily work schedule and would be challenging.

Field Equipment:

Equipment such as wetsuits, wading boots, waders will be provided (and purchased new so that no one has to use someone else's stinky old wetsuit!) Basic camping gear including tents will be provided.

Required Qualifications

- Interest in aquatic ecology and/or fisheries science, desire to gain field experience
- Enthusiasm for working outside, even in potentially harsh conditions
- Positive attitude, flexibility, and willingness to learn new things
- Valid driver's license
- COVID-19 vaccination
- Ability to lift 40 lbs
- Ability to walk in uneven, rocky stream channels and off trail

Desired Qualifications

- Ability for overnight stay in the Skagit during the work week
- Experience with ID and handling of juvenile salmonids
- Experience conducting fieldwork
- Backcountry navigation experience, ability to use map, compass and/or GPS units

Pay Rate

\$17.50 per hour

Weekly mileage will be reimbursed from the Seattle area to the Upper Skagit.

Per-diem will also be provided to help offset costs of

If interested, please email Daniel Schindler at deschind@uw.edu and Nick Chambers nchambrs@uw.edu with a resume and brief email introducing yourself and why you're interested in this position by Wednesday, May 11th.