

SUMMER FIELD TECHNICIAN IN FRESHWATER ECOLOGY

School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences

University of Washington

Summer 2023

The Freshwater Ecology and Conservation Lab (<https://www.oldenfish.com/>) at the University of Washington is hiring a full-time (40 hours/week) field research assistant to work in Seattle, WA and the John Day River Basin, Oregon, during the summer 2023. We are looking for a highly motivated individual who has a passion for freshwater ecology and fisheries, and is hard-working, adaptable, detail-oriented, and enjoys working as part of a team. Research assistants are critical members of our team and are essential to making science happen!

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The research assistant will be involved with a new research project exploring the ecological consequences of fish and crayfish invasions for native salmonids in the John Day River Basin, Oregon. The John Day River is one of the longest free-flowing rivers in the continental United States and home to federally-list populations of Chinook salmon and steelhead. At the same time this river has a history of species invasions, ranging from intentional introductions of sportfish many decades ago (e.g., smallmouth bass) to the relatively more recent accidental release of classroom live organisms (e.g., rusty crayfish). Both invaders may have significant, yet still largely uncertain, predation and competitive effects on multiple life-history stages of salmon and steelhead.

DUTIES: The research assistant will work with a team on the following tasks: (a) surveying crayfish and fish communities using active (e.g., seining, snorkeling) and passive (e.g., minnow traps, hoop nets) techniques; (b) assessing interactions between species by deploying remote techniques (i.e., underwater video); (c) collecting macroinvertebrates and salmonid eggs; (d) measuring standard environmental and habitat conditions; and (e) preparing and processing various tissue samples in the laboratory for stable isotope analysis.

LOGISTICS: Work schedule will vary but involves an extended period of remote fieldwork in the John Day River Basin of central Oregon. This region is stunning in terms of its natural beauty, aspiring landscapes and opportunities to connect with nature. In addition, there will be opportunities to assist with other field activities in the greater Seattle area, and conduct laboratory work (fish dissection and stable isotope preparation) in the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, University of Washington.

POSITION REQUIREMENTS:

- Freshwater field experience, particularly fish collection techniques
- Ability to follow detailed data collection protocols
- Ability to adapt to changing schedules and work in typical field conditions
- Ability to work well as a team and individual
- Commitment to a safe work environment that promotes equity, inclusion, and diversity

CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:

- Willingness to work full days in variable weather and camping in remote locations
- Valid driver's license

SKILLS TO BE GAINED DURING THE POSITION:

- Outdoor fieldwork, data collection, and research experience with multiple collaborators
- Pacific Northwest fish and macroinvertebrate identification
- Stomach content and stable isotope analysis
- Handling and measuring centrarchid fishes, salmonids, and crayfishes
- Operating a variety of fisheries equipment

DURATION: June 12 – Sept 12, 2023 (flexible)

COMPENSATION: \$18.69/hour and all lodging and meals paid. 40 hours a week maximum.

TO APPLY:

Send a [single PDF](#) application to Julian Olden (olden@uw.edu) with the following info:

- Cover letter (1-pg) describing your interest in the position and relevant educational, professional, and/or personal experience to meet requirements
- Resume or CV
- Unofficial transcripts (no minimum GPA requirement)
- Contact information (name, phone, & email) for two references

Applications will be considering upon receipt, closing on May 1, 2023.

Please send questions to Julian Olden.

The University of Washington is an affirmative action and equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, age, protected veteran or disabled status, or genetic information.

COVID-19: To qualify for employment, final candidates must demonstrate they meet the COVID-19 vaccination requirement or receive an approved exemption before starting work. This is in addition to any student verification already completed with UW. We will be working under an approved Health & Safety Plan, which outlines protocols and procedures for the field season, and adheres to all guidelines and best practices for COVID-19.