

Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment

Announcement of Position Available in Summer of 2013

Position Title: Research Assistant
Supervisor: WISE staff and volunteers
Position Type: Temporary, Part-Time

Summary of Position:

The research assistant will work in the Willow Creek Research Project in an effort to determine factors affecting quality and quantity of water in the Willow Creek watershed. The assistant will help in the placement and operation of research equipment and in the gathering and recording of data. Much of the work will take place outdoors, often in wet settings or while standing in flowing water. This position will provide direct experience and training in biological, hydrological, and ecological field research and may prove beneficial should the assistant decide to pursue these or related careers.

Duties:

Assist in placement, operation, and maintenance of equipment:

- installation of research equipment at selected locations in and around Willow Creek
- measurements of stream widths and depths at selected locations in Willow Creek
- use of flow meter to determine rate of flow at selected locations in Willow Creek
- possible sampling of well water and other ground water sources
- possible sampling of pond, lake, or other surface waters
- determining values for water parameters such as temperature; conductivity; nitrate, phosphate, and dissolved oxygen concentrations; pH; and turbidity.
- sampling and identification of organisms, including fish and invertebrates
- keep equipment clean, in good working order, and ready for field use

Recording of data:

- write data on log sheets or other recording media while working in the field
- enter data electronically into data base or other computer program
- possibly upload data to website

General observation:

- visually monitor habitat, activity, and locations of fish and wildlife in and around Willow Creek, including grayling, salmon, beavers, and beaver dams and ponds
- be alert for changes in water levels, water clarity, and other stream conditions, in addition to specific monitoring at selected research locations
- record observations in writing and or photographically

Meeting the public:

- knowledgeably discuss the purpose, techniques, and findings of the Willow Creek Research Project with others who may inquire
- formally present personal experiences, learning, and impressions at a public gathering

Other duties as assigned

Qualifications:

Minimum requirements:

- willing to work outdoors in remote settings
- physically and emotionally able to deal without complaint with a variety of environmental conditions: rain, cold, heat, snow, insects, wading streams, rough terrain, slippery stream banks, wild animals (moose, bears, etc.)
- able to walk several miles in a day, carrying a twenty-pound pack with research equipment and other supplies.
- dependable and punctual
- able to operate precision instruments, making and recording accurate measurements
- at least 16 years of age
- able to work approximately 10 hours per week with flexible hours

Desired characteristics:

- positive and enthusiastic attitude
- good judgment
- strong interest in science and in the natural world
- successful completion of at least one high school science class

Note:

Outdoor clothing (such as hip waders, hiking boots, and rain gear) is not provided and must be supplied by the intern

Hours:

- During 2013: May (end), June, July, August, possibly into September and October
- approximately 120 total hours
- flexible work schedule

Compensation:

\$10/hour

How to apply:

Submit letter of interest and resume, either via email or by post, by 15 May 2013 to:

Robin Underwood

Executive Director, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment

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