RESEARCH POSITION TO STUDY PERCEPTIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL RISK PATHWAYS TO SALMON WATERSHEDS

THE PROJECT

The Salmon Watersheds Lab at Simon Fraser University is seeking a Postdoctoral Fellow or Research Scientist to lead a project examining cumulative effects in salmon watersheds through exploring human perceptions of key impacts and pathways of effect. The project will use social science tools to understand perspectives from different stakeholder and rightsholder groups. This project is a part of the Watershed Futures Initiative (WFI); a multi-year initiative aiming to improve the science and management of cumulative effects in salmon-bearing watersheds of British Columbia.

The cumulative effects of activities such as mining, forestry, and agriculture, as well as climate change, pose risks to watersheds supporting salmon in BC. Improving the science and management of cumulative effects is therefore critical to inform effective watershed stewardship and the restoration of habitats that sustain salmon. This is a large and multi-faceted challenge that cuts across multiple disciplines and demands the integration and application of science, law, and governance. In this context, the Watershed Futures Initiative offers an opportunity to bring together researchers, policy makers and practitioners across multiple disciplines, who share an interest in improving the science and governance of cumulative effects in salmon watersheds. Housed at SFU's Salmon Watersheds Lab, and supported by funding from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, and other sources, the Watershed Futures Initiative is a three-year undertaking (2020-2023) that links together multiple research streams in a coordinated manner. The initiative also provides a forum for convening dialogue among researchers and with other interested parties, and sharing emerging results.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The main responsibility of this position will be to conduct an empirical study of perceptions of pathways of impact and risks to salmon from multiple land-use activities. This project will consist of soliciting information and engaging with the broad community of salmon experts, stakeholders, and rightsholders across multiple watersheds such as Indigenous community members and leaders, academic researchers, and government managers and scientists. Specific project methods will be developed based on best practices for collaboration and co-development. The successful candidate will design and perform the research, analyze the results, and then share the results in a publication and presentation(s). This project will be advised by Jonathan Moore and an associated group of collaborators;
PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES CONTINUED

- Depending on interest and experience, there is also the opportunity for the successful applicant to join the WFI Coordination Team and assist with collaborations and communications among WFI partners, and to help plan and deliver WFI events such as workshops or webinars. This component of this job will entail working with a diverse team across disciplinary boundaries (e.g., science, law, land use planning).

POTENTIAL RESPONSIBILITIES/ OPPORTUNITIES

- Be an active member of the Salmon Watersheds Lab, such as participating in lab meetings;
- Field work in British Columbia rivers systems;
- Travel to meet with WFI collaborators and potential partners;
- Spatial analyses of existing large datasets.

DESIRED SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS

- Candidates with PhDs will be preferred, but exceptional earlier-career candidates will be considered with the appropriate skillsets and experience (e.g., post-Masters);
- A background in qualitative methods in social science, such as experience designing and delivering questionnaires or other expert elicitation methods with diverse communities;
- Experience working with Indigenous communities;
- Expertise and interest in topics such as multiple stressors, conservation science, and environmental risk;
- A strong record of publication;
- Strong inter-personal, communication, and project management skills are an asset.

OTHER INFORMATION

This is a 1-year appointment, from Jan 4, 2021–Dec 31, 2022 (start date somewhat flexible).

There may be potential for longer-term extension based on performance and funding. Support for this position comes from Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Ecosystems and Oceans Science Contribution Framework. Funds are available to cover the full costs of a salary, research and travel expenses, and funding to run WFI events. Salary will be commensurate with stipend levels of a Postdoc or Research Scientist. Given COVID, working remotely is an option.
TO APPLY

Applicants should email a CV and a brief cover letter to adminjwm@sfu.ca with the subject: “Watershed Futures Initiative research position application”. Please submit your application by 5 pm PST Dec 1, 2020. Due to the potential number of applications anticipated, only applicants proceeding to the next round will be contacted. Please note:

- Your CV (pdf) should reference relevant work and educational experience and contact information for three (3) references;
- Your cover letter (pdf) should be two (2) pages or less and should address:
  1. Relevant experience;
  2. Collaborative approach and experience working with diverse stakeholders;
  3. Potential research directions for this project.