

Position Announcement: Copper River Salmon Research Technician (1 position, short term)

The Prince William Sound Science Center (www.pwssc.org), a non-profit research and education institution located on the shores of Prince William Sound in Cordova, Alaska, is seeking a Field Technician to support a project studying the migration of adult sockeye salmon in the Copper River watershed.

Duties: This position will support a large, collaborative project focused on radio tagging and tracking adult sockeye salmon in the Copper River in southcentral Alaska. The PWSSC component of the project involves setting up and maintaining several radio antenna stations and conducting periodic spawning ground surveys in several river and lake systems in the watershed. Surveys will involve enumerating live and dead adult salmon, sampling carcasses and processing samples, and locating radio tagged salmon with a mobile receiver and antenna. The Research Technician will assist the Crew Leader to carry out the above duties and will be directly supervised by the Crew Leader. This individual will be expected to work closely with representatives from other groups and agencies, including Tribes and government agencies. A successful candidate will have experience performing scientific work in remote field locations as part of a team, be comfortable working out of a field camp (>80% of the time, in tents, cabins, and bunkhouses), have a willingness and ability to work under challenging weather conditions, and be familiar with a variety of field methods used in fishery science.

Term: Beginning May 2024 and lasting 6 months. Initial orientation and training period will be in Cordova, Alaska, and field deployment in the Copper River basin will occur in mid-May and extend through September.

Background: Prince William Sound (PWS) is located in the northeast corner of the Pacific at 60° N and includes an intricate network of maritime glaciers, rain forests, offshore islands, barrier islands, wetlands, and freshwater and marine systems. PWS has 4900 km of shoreline and is surrounded by the Chugach Mountains that reach 4,300 m and contains the most extensive system of tidewater glaciers in North America.

The neighboring Copper River is the 10th largest river in the United States and the second in Alaska based on average discharge at the mouth (mean annual discharge 1630 m³/s). The Copper River originates in a dry, subarctic continental climate before cutting through a canyon in the Chugach Mountains to the warm, moist maritime climate of the Delta where the river drains into the Gulf of Alaska. The river begins in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park at Copper Glacier on the northeast side of Mt. Wrangell in the Wrangell Mountains and flows 470 river kilometers to the Gulf of Alaska near Cordova on the Copper River Delta. This is a project supported by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund.

Responsibilities and Qualifications: Successful candidates will have experience in the field and be capable and willing to work in remote locations. The crew will be operating and maintaining a small skiff to access sampling locations. Some sites will be accessed via float plane charters. The job will require extensive foot surveys of streams (wading, sometimes in swift current), so candidates need to be physically fit and comfortable working in and around streams and rivers. Experience working in bear country and handling firearms is highly desirable. The work will require great attention to detail and an ability to work collaboratively and cooperatively with our partners. A successful candidate should also have some experience using computer software for data entry and data processing. Individuals will need

to have a valid US driver's license. There will be training opportunities at the beginning of the term for CPR, First Aid, bear safety, and handling firearms. Applicant must be authorized to work in the United States for any U.S. employer.

Salary and benefits: Wages will be \$18-20/hour, depending on experience. Unemployment insurance and workers compensation are included.

Application Process: To be considered, please submit a cover letter, a résumé, and the names of three references with their contact information via email to Pete Rand, Prince William Sound Science Center, prand@pwssc.org. Applicant period will close on March 31, 2024.

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