



818 Commercial St, Suite 203  
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## **Job Announcement**

### **Habitat Restoration Project Manager**

### **Spring 2023**

The Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) is a council of governments serving communities in the Columbia Pacific region of Oregon and Washington. CREST is seeking an individual to serve as **Habitat Restoration Project Manager**. This position is responsible for the development and implementation of habitat restoration projects that focus on recovering juvenile salmon rearing habitat through reconnection of historic tidal floodplain to the Columbia River Estuary. Project types may include culvert removals, dike breaches, tidegate retrofits, wetland channel enhancement, and levee setbacks.

This position works under the supervision of the CREST Habitat Restoration Program Manager and collaborates with other CREST project managers to investigate, develop and implement projects at specific sites. Key responsibilities include restoration project management actions such as project development, landowner outreach, funding acquisition, permitting, subcontracting, construction oversight, data management and reporting, and communications with partner organizations and agencies.

This position is to be based in either Astoria or Portland, with preference being Astoria. CREST staff are working in remote or hybrid positions and the Project Manager can either work from their home office or CREST office space in Astoria can be provided. This position requires frequent field work across the Columbia River Estuary and variable work hours to oversee project implementation as well as occasional evening meetings with project partners throughout the lower Columbia River and estuary region.

### **Qualifications**

Education: Bachelor's Degree required. Areas of interest include ecology, fisheries, coastal sciences, botany, riparian environmental planning, and wetland restoration. Master's Degree or advanced training is highly preferred.

## **Experience**

### **Required Experience:**

This position requires a broad range of skills relating to designing, permitting, and implementing habitat restoration projects. The applicant must have a deep understanding of ecology specifically wetland and riverine floodplain restoration related to fish passage. Acquiring grant funding is a key component of the job. The following is a mandatory list of experience required for the position:

- Minimum of three (3) years' direct experience developing and implementing on-the-ground habitat restoration projects.
- Position will be partially grant funded and requires a person experienced with applying for and securing grant funding. Minimum of three (3) years' experience applying and receiving grant funding.
- A minimum of three (3) years' experience applying for and receiving regulatory permits from local, state, and federal regulatory agencies.

### **Additional Experience:**

In addition to the required experience listed above, the applicant should have experience coordinating with project designers, contractors, and partners, and have broad experience in natural resource management issues and land management practices in the Pacific Northwest, including salmon recovery efforts. The applicant should know how to read and interpret design plan sets and specifications, have solid professional skills, be able to communicate and work effectively with a broad range of stakeholders, and be flexible and responsive to unforeseen project demands. The applicant should be able to manage multiple projects concurrently while meeting deadlines, be comfortable speaking publicly, be able to work independently, and be able to work in a broad range of environmental conditions, including rugged terrain and adverse weather. The applicant must also offer computer proficiency in office software (Word, Excel, Power point etc.) and familiarity and use of GIS/GPS technology.

## **Position Responsibilities**

The project manager position is part of the CREST Habitat Restoration Department and is directly supervised by the Restoration Program Manager. This position requires a person with strong attention to timelines, schedules, and details. Most tasks will be completed independently and require a motivated and task-driven person to complete successfully. Additional responsibilities include:

- Work with local jurisdictions, watershed councils, state and federal agencies, and landowners to identify habitat restoration opportunities and develop restoration concepts.
- Write grants and collaborate with funders to develop grant agreements, scopes of work, deliverables, timelines, and budgets for potential projects.
- Manage multiple grant budgets and contract requirements.
- Facilitate and oversee technical engineering design and construction professionals through all phases of restoration projects.
- Work with natural resource agency regulatory staff to ensure projects are compliant with local, state, and federal regulations and all permits are obtained for projects; including both pre-project and post-project permit reporting requirements.
- Work with project funders to demonstrate restoration opportunities and restoration monitoring data.

## **Position Details**

This is a full-time (40 hours per week), salaried/exempt position requiring ability to communicate clearly in technical writing and public speaking to diverse audiences and ability to manage multiple projects within deadlines. The position requires travel throughout the lower Columbia River and estuary region for regional coordination meetings and field work conducted in all weather conditions. It requires occasionally working long days (greater than 8 hours) and evenings. CREST offers a competitive salary, \$54,000 - \$68,000 depending on qualifications and an excellent benefit package (medical, dental, vision, deferred compensation).

## **To Apply**

All applicants must submit a CREST Job Application form available on our website, a cover letter detailing why you want the position and how your background and experience meet the skills and qualification requirements, and resume to Paula Gerttula at [pgerttula@columbiaestuary.org](mailto:pgerttula@columbiaestuary.org). **CREST will begin reviewing applications on March 13, 2023.**