

AQUATIC MONITORING CREW LEAD

Seasonal Fieldwork 2021

OVERVIEW

The Institute for Natural Resources (Portland, OR office; <https://www.pdx.edu/inr/institute-natural-resources>) is partnering with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement their Aquatic Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring (AIM) strategy, which is targeted at collecting standardized data from streams across BLM Districts in the western U.S. Work will focus on wadeable streams and rivers in California. Aquatic data collection will follow the *AIM National Aquatic Monitoring Framework: Field Protocol for Wadeable Lotic Systems (TR 1735-2)*, specifically: 1) site evaluation, 2) water quality, 3) physical habitat and canopy cover, 4) macroinvertebrates, 5) photos, and 6) human influences.

To assist in this effort, we are recruiting the following positions:

Aquatic Monitoring Field Crew Lead (2)

- 1) One position based in Portland, OR but working in northeast CA and very western NV; supervising a technician and riparian botanist.
- 2) One position based in and working throughout CA; supervising a technician.

Both positions are field-based and require rough camping. Sampling sites may sometimes be near a town, but often the towns will have few amenities or entertainment, and crew members should plan to bring all their food with them each hitch. Cell phone service from any carrier (Verizon is usually the best) is poor to non-existent in many areas. Applicants should also understand that this is physically demanding work. The crew will work eight consecutive 10-hour days, followed by a 6-day break, in all kinds of weather, and frequently have to navigate sketchy roads before lugging awkward and heavy equipment across uneven terrain to access a site. The “wadeable streams” we sample range from a few inches deep to fast-flowing small rivers that require good balance, a stout stadia rod, and a willingness to be waist or chest deep in water. A loss of footing means you may be submerged, and will generally need to self-rescue.

Mandatory training will occur May 3-8 with a travel day on either side. The anticipated start day is April 21 for the NorCal crew lead and April 28 for the CA Statewide crew lead. Regular field sampling will begin in late May (tentatively May 19) and may continue into late August, and will consist of at least six 80-hour work hitches. Each hitch will run from Wednesday through Wednesday. INR will supply all of the equipment necessary to carry out the work, including vehicle, sampling equipment, waders and boots, and shared camping equipment (i.e., stove, kitchen supplies, and water jug). Crew members are expected to provide personal items, including closed toe hiking boots, tent, sleeping bag and pad. Crew members are also responsible for arranging their own housing in between hitches.

QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's Degree or higher in Aquatic Ecology, Fisheries, Hydrology, Water Resources or related subject.
- Experience supervising technicians, volunteers or undergraduate students. Leadership in a volunteer or community organization, or in the military, can satisfy this requirement.
- Experience managing gear and equipment for a crew, lab class, team, or other organizational unit.
- Experience following established field protocols to conduct sampling and field data collection on new and existing monitoring sites, including: experience with data entry and management using electronic devices; experience navigating and collecting coordinates with hand-held GPS units and other electronic devices; and experience with Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Access).
- Experience driving and maintaining 4WD trucks and other vehicles, especially in off-road situations. Valid driver's license and clean driving record (DUI or other serious convictions need not apply).
- Experience in and willingness to spend multiple days camping in the field where hazards (snakes, bears, deadfall, lightning, poison oak, flash floods, fires, etc.) may be encountered.
- Willingness to work irregular hours in harsh environments and challenging weather, and carry 40-50 pounds in a backpack over uneven terrain.
- Demonstrated ability to work productively as part of a team to accomplish mutual goals, and to work independently as required.
- CPR and First Aid Certification.

Preferred Qualifications:

Studies have shown that women and minorities often don't apply for positions where they don't meet all of the preferred skills and experience. We recognize that there are many different paths, experiences, and less traditional backgrounds that add value to one's work, and encourage applicants to apply even if they do not have all of the preferred skills.

- Two seasons of fish, macroinvertebrate, hydrology or water quality field data collection, and at least one season of supervising others in related tasks.
- Experience characterizing aquatic habitats in the field using standardized protocols, including establishing transects and thalweg profiles, determinations of bankfull width, stream classification (Rosgen or other), habitat complexity, and riparian vegetation.
- Experience with macroinvertebrate collection and water quality sampling.
- Experience driving and maintaining ATVs or UTVs.
- Wilderness First Aid certification.

EXPECTATIONS

In addition to the above qualifications, we expect crew members to commit to the entire field season, to practice safety awareness, including vehicle safety procedures, to communicate regularly with INR support staff and BLM agency staff, to participate in INR and BLM trainings, and to contribute to building a healthy and fun work team environment.

Health check-ins will take place prior to training and each hitch to ensure crew wellness regarding COVID-19 symptoms and exposure.

TRAINING

These positions are ideal for people who are committed to ongoing learning and development. You will receive extensive, paid training on the AIM protocols and associated methodology. You will also have the opportunity to interact with seasoned staff scientists from both the BLM and INR throughout training and fieldwork.

Mandatory training (for all crew members) on the Lotic AIM protocol will occur May 3-8 in Carson City, NV.

COMPENSATION

Salary is based on qualifications and experience, with the Aquatic Monitoring Crew Lead starting at \$17 an hour. All positions will receive a total of \$225 per diem for food costs per hitch, and lodging reimbursement of up to \$284 per hitch (e.g., for camping at established campgrounds). We will also cover per diem, including two travel days, associated with training.

HOW TO APPLY

Please submit the following as a single email attachment to Kyla Zaret (Crew Manager at INR, kzaretATpdx.edu). Email-based inquiries will be entertained, but please make sure that you have done your homework first (e.g., you've carefully re-read the entire position announcement, and looked over the INR and BLM websites and related links, see below).

1. Letter of interest. In this letter, please describe your background, including any military and volunteer service; professional experience, recreational interests or hobbies that help demonstrate your suitability for work in harsh and challenging conditions; and your reasons for pursuing this opportunity in particular. Also, please let us know which location is your preference or whether you're open to either NorCal or CA Statewide.
2. Curriculum vitae, including all degrees and related coursework.
3. Names of three (3) references. While we prefer professional references who can attest to your work ethic and technical abilities, we will accept academic references or references from organizations.

Application review will begin immediately, and will continue until the position is filled.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information about the Institute for Natural Resources can be found on our website at <https://www.pdx.edu/inr/institute-natural-resources>. Additional information on the AIM strategy, including the protocols, can be found at <https://aim.landscapetoolbox.org/>.