

Applied Hydrology in Watershed Restoration (based in Seattle or Bellingham offices)

This internship provides you with hands-on experience with watershed restoration through hydrologic and watershed condition studies to produce a report in the Upper Yakima and Finney watersheds. Conservation Northwest is one of the foremost regional organizations in the country promoting scientifically credible and socially responsible land stewardship. This is an ongoing process requiring vigilance, familiarity with policies, and sound science to back up our conservation stance. We strive to assure that national forests are managed in accordance with the principles of conservation science so that our public forest and aquatic environments continue to provide clean water, habitat for endangered species, and other ecosystem functions. This is accomplished by: advocating for protection of old-growth forests, roadless areas, and other critical wildlife habitat; promoting restoration of degraded areas; and monitoring and challenging bad timber sales and other harmful projects on our national forests. This internship's primary function is to support Conservation Northwest's science program in our work to restore and engage in two critical watersheds. These two watersheds are the Upper Yakima watershed on the eastside of the Cascades mountains in Kittitas County, and the Finney watershed in western Washington's North Cascades.

The goal of the internship will be to produce a report and GIS layers for needed information to better manage and identify restoration opportunities in these watersheds. In the Upper Yakima watershed, the intern will focus on the channel morphology and restoration opportunities of Gold Creek. This critical creek lies mainly in national forest ownership until its lower reaches, and is home to a small resident population of bull trout. In the Finney watershed, the intern will use GIS to update road conditions and restoration opportunities in the Finney Adaptive Management Area to inform future management of this area.

Duties

- Review studies done in these areas on the watershed, hydrology, and road systems.
- Walk in the field creating a GIS data layer for use by those working on these watersheds.
- Prepare a report on potential channel morphology changes that could be done in various restoration scenarios to meet management objectives at Gold Creek.
- Further work done by previous undergraduate interns in a report to summarize conditions in the field, opportunities for restoration, and further work/questions identified.

Timeline/Compensation

- Flexible start date; 3 or 6 month commitment
- 15-20 hours/week
- Compensation: College credit and cutting edge experience; \$400 stipend per quarter

Skills Required

- Advanced coursework and field experience in stream ecology, hydrology, or watershed studies
- Writing skills for summarizing findings and communicating with organizational and agency partners
- GIS skills in ArcView 9
- Map reading skills

Management

- Jen Watkins, Conservation Northwest conservation associate: internship supervision.
- Rose Oliver, Conservation Northwest grassroots coordinator: internship coordinator.