

Announcement #

2021-221

Issue Date:

**12-03-21**

Closing Date:

12-20-21

**Fisheries Climate Change Biologist III**

**Fisheries FRM**

**Department of Natural Resources**

**Hourly Wage: \$27.46/Regular/Full-Time**

**Location: Toppenish**

The employee is primarily responsible for preservation, protection and enhancement of Treaty reserved fishery and natural resources impacted by climate change in the Columbia Basin. The employee will work within the Yakama Nation Fisheries Programs and with other DNR programs to ensure that all projects and programs are linked to the Yakama Nation Climate Action Plan (CAP). The employee must be knowledgeable in the theory, concepts, and principles of climate change and understand the impacts of climate change on natural resources with emphasis on fish biology and aquatic life. The employee must also be able to conduct an independent analysis of moderately complex situations to review and evaluate real-time and future effects of climate change on local and regional hydrology and environmental metrics important to all life stages of salmon and other aquatic resources.

Work requires high-level skills in data and statistical analysis, process modeling, communication, and collaboration within groups having diverse resource interests. Incumbent participates in developing protection and mitigation plans for managing the tribe's natural resources with full consideration of a changing climate.

**Examples of Work Performed:**

- Evaluate and address impacts of climate change on the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation natural resources.
- Build off the existing Yakama Nation Climate Adaptation Plan to conduct vulnerability, planning, and mitigating for climate change to develop the Yakama Nation Climate Implementation Plan.
- Evaluate the Vital Sign Indicators of water, fish, wildlife, and social resources that are impacted by climate change and are important to the Yakama Nation.
- Evaluate sedimentation and its impacts in the mainstem Columbia River in hydroelectric power project sites and at mainstem tributary confluences.
- Identify and evaluate cold water refugia in the Columbia Basin important for fish passage.
- Assist in the development and distribution of annual fisheries management reports.
- Assist in development of FRMP strategic plans and works statements.
- Evaluate the impacts of federal, public utility, and investor-owned hydroelectric power projects on tribal trust aquatic resources and assist in the preparation of Habitat

Conservation Plans (HCPs), Biological Opinions (BOs), settlement agreements, and FERC licenses to ensure that their terms and conditions are sufficiently protective of trust resources and adequately mitigate for unavoidable project impacts in a changing climate.

- Evaluate alternative energy resources and their potential impact on Yakama Nation's natural and cultural resources.
- Provide technical assistance to Hydro Systems Oversight Coordinator, legal staff and policy leadership in evaluating the merits of proposed HCPs, BOs, settlement agreements, and FERC licenses for hydroelectric projects that affect fishery resources reserved by the Yakama Nation through the treaty of 1855. Prepare memos, briefings, reports and affidavits accordingly.
- Evaluate predation issues on the mainstem Columbia River, tributaries, and at the Columbia River hydroelectric projects as it relates to climate change and warming river temperatures.
- Provide relevant and timely information to Hydro Systems Oversight Coordinator and Yakama Tribal Council concerning compliance and biological effectiveness of various agreements, HCPs, and BOs affecting Yakama Nation treaty trust aquatic resources.
- As directed, conduct presentations with the Hydro Systems Oversight Coordinator to Tribal Council, staff, and the general public or professional interest groups.
- Provide assistance as needed in the development of annual budgets.

### **Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Knowledge of tribal history within the Columbia River Basin and familiarity with the Treaty of 1855.
- Knowledge of the traditions, culture and natural resource policies of the Yakama Nation.
- Knowledge of the Columbia River hydroelectric system and its effect on the ecology of affected aquatic resources, water quality, and cultural resources.
- Knowledge of the life histories and interactions of salmon, sturgeon, Pacific lamprey and other fishes of the Columbia Basin.
- Knowledge of the Endangered Species Act and provisions relating to the taking of listed species.
- Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing.
  
- Ability to work collaboratively with diverse groups while effectively representing the treaty reserved rights and fishery interests of the Yakama Nation.
- Ability to give oral presentations to scientific and policy groups regarding the results of ongoing programs, studies and analyses associated with hydroelectric dam operations and effects on fishery resources.
- Ability to travel extensively throughout the Pacific Northwest and operate a Tribal GSA vehicle in a safe and appropriate manner.

### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries Science or related field.
- Four years of fisheries research work experience.
- Required to pass pre-employment drug test.

- Must possess a valid Washington State Driver's License with the ability to obtain a Yakama Nation Driving permit.
- Must be physically able to work in remote areas under a wide range of weather conditions.
- Must demonstrate and express a self-motivated and positive approach to identifying and completing the activities necessary to perform the work associated with this position.
- Enrolled Yakama Preference, but all qualified applicants are encouraged to apply.

**Preferred Requirements:**

- Master's Degree with a major in fisheries science.