

Washington State Department of Ecology
Coastal Monitoring & Analysis Program
WCC Individual Placement Position

The Washington Department of Ecology, Coastal Monitoring & Analysis Program has a twelve-month job opportunity for a motivated and qualified individual to assist in beach and nearshore topographic surveying and coastal monitoring along the southwest Washington coast and at selected sites in Puget Sound.

This position is being offered through the Washington Conservation Corps Individual Placement (IP) internship program. Qualified individuals must be between the age of 18 and 25 (may turn 26 while in the program). **This position is intended to be filled on October 5, 2009 and will continue until September 24, 2010.**

The purpose of this position is to help Ecology and other science organizations understand the physical changes along southwest Washington's ocean beaches, and begin collection of nearshore and beach observations in Puget Sound. These data, in turn, are used to support sound coastal and land-use decision-making.

Job Description:

Objective: To assist the Coastal Monitoring & Analysis Program (CMAP) by collecting field data, maintaining field equipment and vehicles, managing databases, and analyzing sediments in CMAP's dry sediment laboratory.

Activities:

1. Collect and process data in the study of coastal erosion and accretion. Data collection will include beach topographic mapping and nearshore bathymetric beach morphology mapping using Real-Time Kinematic Differential Global Position Systems.
2. Data processing, analysis, and database management using a variety of software packages such as: Trimble Geomatics Office, MS Excel, Matlab, etc.
3. Sediment analysis. Collection of sediment samples, laboratory analysis of samples, and analysis of sediment size distributions.
4. Field equipment maintenance. Includes: 4-wheel drive truck, off-road utility vehicle, 2 waverunners, trailers, GPS equipment, and sediment lab equipment (scales, etc.)
5. Assist local organizations with volunteer events such as beach clean-ups, undertake significant outreach and education projects, and further WCC goal of volunteer recruitment.
6. General office support.

Necessary Skills and Experience:

- Completion of a minimum of two years of college
- Ability to perform physically demanding field work
- Solid mechanical and problem solving skills
- Be able to work long and odd hours at short notice (nights and weekends)
- Like to be at beach in **all** weather conditions

Desired Skills and Experience:

- Experience with Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment
- Science background (e.g., physical oceanography, coastal geology, geomorphology)
- Solid computer skills (e.g., MS Excel, GIS, programming, etc.)

Timeline: The Coastal Monitoring program works on a regular, pre-determined sampling schedule, and conducts seasonal sampling at some coastal locations. In addition, field staff will conduct beach profile and shoreline scarp position monitoring following major storm events. There are also continuing and developing projects in Puget Sound aimed at providing data to enhance and restore the nearshore environment. All time between sampling will be dedicated to equipment maintenance, data processing, preparation for upcoming field work, sediment analysis in the lab, database management, and other project support duties.

The person in this position will spend approximately one third of their time in the field and the remainder of the time doing project support work (e.g. equipment maintenance, lab analysis, database work, and project documentation) at Ecology Headquarters in Lacey, WA.

The person in this position will work most closely with a field crew leader who will provide mentoring and day to day oversight of the position. All the needed field and office tools and equipment will be provided for this position, including a computer, a cubicle, access to Ecology vehicles, field equipment, etc.

Training: The person in this position will receive on-the-job training in a variety of coastal field monitoring and laboratory analysis techniques. In addition, the person will have access to Ecology's Core Training program which includes courses that provide basic skill, knowledge, and abilities in essential areas such as communication, safety, management, teamwork, computers, etc. In addition, the IP will be required to take Ecology's Boat Safety training and the U.S. Power Squadron's Boat Smart course, defensive driving, and basic first aid.

The person in this position will be encouraged to take a course in ArcView, Matlab, or other computer software to enhance their skills and help them with future job in the environmental field, or in their future educational endeavors. This position provides the IP with ample growth opportunity in the realms of technical competence, individual development, community service, and job skills suitable to enter the environmental field.

Connection to Other Efforts: This project is most closely connected with shoreline planning and coastal project decision-making (e.g. erosion protection, beach nourishment, and dune restoration). A monitoring program provides baseline and trends data that supports on-the-ground decision-making in the short term, and land-use and environmental planning over the long term. The project also works with the U.S. Geological Survey on documenting the effects of the planned Elwha dam removal on the nearshore habitats as well as the importance of sea grass habitat in Puget Sound. This work is linked to Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems (NANOOS) and the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project, in which many partners are involved.

Volunteer Efforts: The person in this position will be fully encouraged and supported to take on meaningful volunteer projects working with other WCC members, local organizations, or other groups. One goal is to involve a total of 150 volunteers to participate in projects organized or otherwise supported by the IP. In addition, the IP will participate in a week-long MLK community service event.

For more information regarding the study and its monitoring program please visit the following websites:

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/swces/index.htm>

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/swces/research/change/monitoring.htm>

As an individual placement in the Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) a few of the benefits include:

\$8.55 per hour (current Washington state minimum wage rate)

\$4,725 Americorps education award upon completion of the WCC program

Payments on eligible student loans can be deferred while in the program

Basic health insurance is provided

80 hours of formal training

Enrollees can qualify for food stamps from the State of Washington

1700 Hour commitment (1 year) with potential to extend to another year after September 30, 2010

For more information on this opportunity contact:

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For more information on the Washington Conservation Corps's internship program see:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/wcc/wcc_jobs.htm