

FLNRORD Co-op position: Fisheries Climate Research Assistant (4 months) - revised

Location: FLNRORD offices, Omineca Region, Prince George, BC.

The Organization: The BC Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource Operations, and Rural Development (FLNRORD) is offering one 4-month co-op position to assist with the implementation of research projects led by the Omineca Region's Fisheries team. The co-op student will assist with research and fieldwork on Omineca Fisheries climate action projects.

Omineca Fisheries Climate Action: Climate change poses a threat to freshwater fish populations as water temperature is the important environmental parameter delineating their spatial and temporal distribution. Investigating the relationship between climate change and stream and/or lake temperatures is necessary as climate models project recent increases in regional mean air temperatures to continue. Top-predator salmonid species such as Bull Trout and Arctic Grayling are ideal indicator species of climate impacts and there is a need for mitigation and adaptation strategies aimed at freshwater fish conservation. New projects on Bull Trout and Arctic Grayling will aim to identify 1. areas of potential risk to Bull Trout and Arctic Grayling from climate change, as well as 2. areas of potential refugia for Bull Trout and Arctic Grayling, and 3. to subsequently determine watershed-specific forestry and riparian management practices to mitigate projected temperature increases and decisions to reduce the risk to these species.

Co-op Position: The co-op student will require a variety of skills and broad knowledge base to perform the required tasks related to in-stream monitoring of environmental parameters. The co-op student will participate in our teams strategic research planning and project implementation, thereby gaining theoretical and practical skills in applications of climate data, in-stream hydrology, riparian ecology, and fish biology. Theoretical learning will occur during the initial literature review and planning of field activities and include understanding of environmental science, climate change impacts, watershed ecology, fisheries management and conservation, and working with a team towards climate solutions. Practical skills acquired through participation in field activities include sampling design, the deployment of in-stream temperature monitoring equipment, fish habitat characterization, water sample collection, data analysis and dissemination of results. The co-op student will have the opportunity to work on a variety of climate action projects within our team of professional biologists during the term.

Qualifications:

- Applicants must be registered in a co-op program at their post-secondary institution.
- Applicants must be physically fit and able to work long days in adverse weather conditions
- Applicants must be able to work independently, following directions and be a team player
- Applicants must have: a valid class 5 driver's license, Occupational First Aid (Level 1, equivalent or higher), WHMIS certificate, Electrofishing certificate (may be obtained prior to field work in July), Swift Water Rescue Technician training (desirable)
- Experience working in remote locations and Bear country (bear awareness training)
- Experience operating 4x4 vehicles, e.g., truck and ATV
- Familiarity with GPS navigation, route finding, and orienteering
- Excellent planning, organizing, and written and oral communication skills

Asset Qualifications:

- Experience in environmental monitoring
- Fish sampling, handling and identification skills
- Geographical Information System (GIS) knowledge and skills
- Data collection skills

Closing date: apply now, open until filled

Dates: May (asap) – August 31st 2018

Remuneration: COOP Level 1 (undergraduates): \$1,467.19 bi-weekly

Terms: 4 months

To apply for this opportunity please submit as PDFs:

1. 1-page Cover Letter outlining **a)** how you meet each qualification and each asset qualification above, and **b)** how the Fisheries Climate Research Assistant co-op term would aid you in furthering your career aspirations.
2. Your updated Curriculum Vitae.
3. Contact information for 3 references.

Please include your name in the file title(s), e.g., *Co-op_Fisheries_Climate_RA_YOUR NAME.pdf*.

Please submit applications by email to: nikolaus.gantner@gov.bc.ca

The successful candidate will be required to complete security screening requirements of the BC Public Service.

Deadline: Apply now – position will remain open until filled.