

## **MS RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP-FLOW AND SEDIMENT EFFECTS ON KLAMATH RIVER POLYCHAETES**

**Location:** Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. Degree major within the College of Natural Resources and Sciences, Fisheries Option; in affiliation with the USGS California Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

**Responsibilities:** The research will evaluate effects of flow and sediment on the survival and dispersal of the freshwater polychaete, *Manayunkia speciosa* in artificial stream channels. *M. speciosa* is the invertebrate host for the myxozoan parasite *Ceratomyxa shasta* that infects and causes significant mortality in juvenile salmon in the Klamath River. Research will assess the potential for using flow and sediment manipulations as a strategy for disrupting disease dynamics by controlling polychaete populations to enhance salmon survival. The selected candidate will maintain a lab culture of Klamath River polychaetes and conduct short-term trials examining polychaete response to manipulations of velocity and sediment composition. The candidate will participate as a team member of a large multi-institutional research effort to help reduce incidence and severity of salmon diseases and to guide future recovery plan efforts in the Klamath River. The candidate will be advised by Dr. Peggy Wilzbach.

**Qualifications:** B.S. degree in biology, fisheries, ecology, or related environmental science field; minimum combined score of 1000 on verbal + quantitative GRE's and minimum GPA of 3.00 on last 60 units of undergraduate work; physical ability to travel and conduct field and laboratory research. Desired qualifications include knowledge or interest in invertebrate ecology and in the flow environment of streams; good writing, communication, and interpersonal skills; and a strong work ethic.

**Salary (stipend):** \$15,600/year (12 months) for at least two years, contingent upon satisfactory academic and research progress. Salary is funded by an extramural grant administered by the Humboldt State University Sponsored Programs Foundation.

**Starting Date:** Available January (spring semester) 2010 or later.

**Contacts:** Please send a letter of interest, resume, unofficial copies of GRE scores and college transcripts, and contact information for three references. The selected applicant will apply to the appropriate graduate program through the Humboldt State University Office for Research, Graduate Studies, and International Opportunities.  
([http://www.humboldt.edu/~gradst/new\\_student.php](http://www.humboldt.edu/~gradst/new_student.php)).

**Materials should be sent to Dr. Peggy Wilzbach**  
USGS California Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit

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