Title: Fisheries Research Assistant - Big Hole River, Montana

Classification: Temporary/Seasonal Positions

Agency/Organization: Montana State University-USGS Montana Cooperative Fishery Research Unit

Website: http://www.mtcfru.org/

Location: Bozeman, MT (field work in Wisdom, MT)

Salary: $10.70-$11.01/hr (depending on experience)

Start Date: 06/15/2018

Last date to apply: 05/18/2018

Contact person: Ben Triano
benjamintriano@gmail.com (email preferred)
732-300-1365

Job Description:

Project Description: The upper Big Hole River supports one of the last strongholds of fluvial Arctic Grayling in the lower 48 states, and movement is an integral component of the life history of Big Hole River grayling. The upper Big Hole watershed is fragmented by pin and plank diversions used for irrigation, and Denil fish ladders have been installed throughout the system to provide passage of Arctic Grayling and increase aquatic connectivity. This research is focused on directly evaluating the effectiveness of these fishways for Arctic Grayling and other species by using Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) telemetry to monitor fish movement and use of the fishways.

We are looking for a seasonal, part-time field technician to assist in this research. The technician will work 40-60 hours per week, every other week from June 15th to October 15th, depending on conditions. Primary responsibilities include transporting Arctic grayling from Big Timber, MT to Wisdom, MT in a hatchery truck, maintaining temperature in hatchery truck holding tanks, sampling fish by backpack electrofishing, recording accurate scientific data (fish PIT tag #, length, weight, and species, etc), handling, identifying, measuring fish, and transporting gear to and from field sites. Secondary responsibilities include setting up and monitoring of PIT arrays, PIT tagging fish, and measuring and recording streamflow and other hydraulic data.
Qualifications:

Incumbents should be highly motivated and hard-working individuals with a positive attitude, attention to detail, and an interest in fisheries research. They must have a valid driver's license and clean driving record, and will take the USGS defensive driving training course. They must work well as part of a field crew, be comfortable living in a trailer in Wisdom, MT with 2 others during work hitches, and maintain a clean living space. They must be physically fit, have strong wading abilities, and be capable of lifting and carrying up to 50 lbs over uneven terrain. They will be expected to act professionally to maintain positive relationships with managers and landowners, and must be comfortable working long days in extreme temperatures and in the presence of cows and persistent mosquitos. Preferred applicants will be careful drivers and have experience sampling fish by backpack electrofishing (strong netting abilities), handling/measuring/identifying fish, and recording accurate scientific data. Other useful skills include experience with PIT technology, and measuring/recording stream flow.

How to Apply:

To apply or inquire about this position, please email the following to Ben Triano at benjamintriano@gmail.com under the subject "Big Hole River Field Technician":

1) A brief cover letter (~1 page) describing your interest in the project and your skills, experience, and personal traits that make you a good candidate for this position

2) CV/Resume with at least one professional reference