Funded Master of Science (M.S.) Assistantship at Cal Poly Humboldt on Food Web Responses to Klamath Dam Removal

(beginning August 2023)

Dr. Alison O'Dowd (https://environment.humboldt.edu/people/alison-odowd) at Cal Poly Humboldt seeks applications for highly motivated students interested in pursuing graduate school in the Environmental Science & Management option of the Natural Resources Graduate Program (http://www2.humboldt.edu/environment/programs/graduate-programs). Students with an interest in benthic macroinvertebrates, aquatic food webs, and the impacts of dam removal on food resources for juvenile salmonids are particularly encouraged to apply.

Assistantship:

- Monthly stipend for two years to cover living expenses and tuition ($29,000/year)
- Project-related expenses (travel to field sites, equipment, etc.) will be covered
- Funding to present graduate research at a professional conference

The second year of funding is conditional based on student academic standing and project progress. Program start date is August 2023 semester.

Project Summary:

The removal of four large hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River will be the largest dam removal effort in U.S. history and presents an extraordinary opportunity to study the impacts associated with a large-scale multi-dam removal project. Since the dams' establishment, the Klamath River ecosystem has faced consequences of fragmented habitat, altered flow regimes, degraded habitat and water quality, and the decline and extirpation of many of the Basin's native species including critically important anadromous salmonids.

This graduate research project will seek to understand the food web responses associated with Klamath dam removal by examining the water quality, habitat, and salmonid food resources and diet in the mainstem Klamath River and associated tributaries before (2022 & 2023) and during (2024) Klamath dam removal. Subsequent research efforts will examine these parameters after Klamath dam removal (2025 & 2026).

Requirements:

Strong applicants will have:

- An undergraduate degree in Environmental Science, Biology, Fisheries, Watershed Science, Ecology or related field
- An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or above in all undergraduate coursework
- University-level courses in ecology, fisheries, aquatic ecology and/or statistics
- Demonstrated experience working in rivers and with associated field equipment
- Demonstrated experience sorting and identifying benthic macroinvertebrates
- Ability to drive to remote field sites
- An interest in publishing research findings in a scientific journal

To Apply:

Send a single PDF to Alison.ODowd@humboldt.edu that includes:

(1) A brief letter of interest including your background and research interests. Describe specific experience:
    a. Conducting field work in rivers
    b. Sorting and identification of benthic macroinvertebrates

Also indicate in your letter whether you are a California resident.

(2) A resume/CV (including GPA)
(3) Transcripts (unofficial is fine)
(4) The names and contact information for three references

The **priority application deadline is November 15, 2022**, but applications will be accepted on a rolling basis until a student is selected for the position. After initial screening, the student will be asked to submit a formal application through CalState apply (https://www2.calstate.edu/apply/graduate). A complete application to the graduate program is necessary to be considered after the initial communication. Applications will be considered until position is filled.

Cal Poly Humboldt is a comprehensive public university with world-class graduate programs in natural resource management, located on the North Coast of California; with access to mountains, beaches, and the largest old growth redwood forests in the world all nearby. Visit www.humboldt.edu for more information.

Native American students and applicants from diverse backgrounds are especially encouraged to apply.