

Eco-Cultural Restoration Specialist

Reports To: Council DNR Representative

Location: Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Orleans

Salary: \$29,000 to \$39,000, depending on experience

Summary: Assist DNR in the restoration of cultural management practices

1) What are your typical job responsibilities?

Development of a Stewardship Pilot Program this last fiscal year, but it changes year to year. In FY 2008, I will be primarily focusing on the continued development of the Eco-Cultural Resource Management Plan.

2) How do you *really* spend your day?

I make sure my job responsibilities are met, and work on other related issues that are either important to me or are critical to the future and success of our programmatic infrastructure. In some cases I spend extended periods of time on fire assignments either protecting cultural/natural resources, or otherwise filling in where I am needed on emergency assignments.

3) How do you organize your day to ensure you get everything done?

I try not to maintain critical communications over the phone except when needed. Instead I organize communications in writing so as to keep a better record. I prefer to do this over the email, but do draft a lot of formal letters for the council. I make sure to go through my e-mail first thing in the morning and get that out of the way. This helps reduce the disturbance factor from ringing phones when I am concentrating on getting a thought process on paper. I find it important to manage the amount to meetings, conferences and travel to those that are necessary for either networking for future funding or policy changes, required for successful task completion, or useful in furthering my education or experience.

4) What education/career paths lead you to this position? Were there any life changes that guided your way to this position (ex; closing of the mill, desire not to leave area, family)?

When I was eight years old I asked the Faativeenan if I should go to college or jump right in to work for the Tribe so I could stay home and help my people help themselves. The answer I received was that he would hire experience over education any day. So I made sure to finish high school, and participated in summer south work. After high school I got a job at the Camp Creek Hatchery. During this time I applied to a national pool for Water Resource Technician Training, of which I was one of twenty selected out of all the Tribes in the United States. Early developed writing skills (double credit college level night school classes helped) and the story I had to tell were critical. I spent six weeks in Randle Washington at the Cispus Learning Center going to class eight hours a day six days a week learning the field of water resources. This led to my full time employment with the Karuk Department of Natural Resources in July 1993. My career developed exponentially from there.

5) Uppers; what is the thing that you love most about your job?

I really like my ability to manage my own time, and influence my required tasks to do things that are important to me and my goals in life. By carefully writing grants and knowing what

your required duties will be, you have a preconceived head start when it is time to complete your mission. This is very fulfilling, especially when it enables you to complete additional related tasks that make your products and reports show exceptional performance. This is important when relying on future funding to sustain a job.

6) Downers; what is the thing that you love least about your job?

I think the thing I like the least, is not knowing whether funding will be there next year or not. I have been lucky so far and only had one year since I started writing proposals that I no funding was received for my job. It all worked out and I am funded for next year, but my job had to be reduced to thirty two hours per week (which I actually enjoy), and a few others were lucky that the council had funds to cover shortfalls this time. I have seen many cases where funding did not come in from proposals that people depend on and it is hard for anyone to support themselves let alone a family when that occurs regularly.

7) What inspires, excites, and/or motivates you in your job?

I am motivated by positive change in the management of the resources important to tribal people. I like to see the products of my labor improve the lives of tribal members, descendants, and community members alike. I enjoy the crunch of multi-tasking as long as I can see results at the end of the day. Overall, the satisfaction of accomplishment is my biggest motivator.

8) What does your average work week schedule look like (ex; hours worked, meetings, appointments, traveling, etc.)?

My work week changes constantly. I currently work 32 hours per week. I try not to schedule more than two meetings per week, if possible. I prefer to keep appointments short and in correlation with the primary task(s) of the day. Travel tends to take up the entire week when it is needed and a priority. Other than that, I come to work day after day and proceed with my answer to question number three.

9) How do you relieve stress?

I go fishing, mushrooming, hunting, or just enjoy some time by the water. As far as stress relief at work, I tend to put the stressful assignments off to the next day and start back into them fresh and preferably in a quiet environment whenever I can.

10) Does your job include a lot of traveling? Do you enjoy it?

I do travel for many reasons. I enjoy it when I am not alone. I would rather not travel during my birthday and not too often in the year. I have learned many things and met lots of interesting people while on travel, and I believe it is a critical part of overall success in my job and the development of my career.

11) What advice would you give to someone interested in this line of work?

Think outside the box. Pursue higher education, but stick to your roots. Learn your culture, listen to what everyone has to say, and make up your own mind. Try not to get too judgmental and always to put a positive spin to your products, but don't be afraid to let an occasional ugly truth make a positive change (when appropriate). Do not let yourself focus entirely on a single field of expertise. Know both sides of the table. You will use algebra extensively, learn to write well, and proficiency in public speaking never hurts.

12) What does a typical day in your world look like?

Seasonally pleasant.