

Environmental Programs Assistant

Reports To: Natural Resources Director or Appointee

Salary: \$11.00 to \$16.00 per hour, depending on experience

Location: Orleans, CA; Department of Natural Resources

Summary: The Environmental Programs Assistant shall assist in all aspects of coordination of Natural Resources Program goals.

1) What are your typical job responsibilities?

I am responsible for the Fisheries Budgets, the K1 Fire crew, DNR office personnel coordination and Undam the Klamath campaign stuff. Travel coordination and reconciliation, purchasing for fire, fisheries and DNR. There's more but it's day by day, need by need.

2) How do you really spend your day?

I really spend the day working on the responsibilities I listed.

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

I have a calendar and I use the computer. I appreciate MS Outlook immensely. I recently parted ways with the post-its. I have changed it up so that now I have a small notebook (or actually it's a series of small notebooks) that I write everything important in. And I don't feel like I ever "got everything done." I go home everyday with a to-do list and a stack of stuff that needs to be done.

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)?

I was led to this position through growing up immersed in the protection of our Natural and Cultural resources. My dad always taught us that as Karuk Araar we are stewards of this place, that we are responsible for the continued survival of our culture and resources.

Following that I enrolled in college focusing on Natural Resources. Shortly thereafter, I had two sons, both Tribal members, and I made the decision to keep them close to their heritage and culture. My job at the Natural Resources affords me that opportunity.

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

I love feeling like I am doing something important. I love telling people about what I do and how it connects to who I am. I appreciate that I am surrounded by people who mostly have the same goals.

But I have to say that the thing that I love the most about my job is K1. I have been helping to build the crew since I started working for the Tribe in 2000. Watching the crew develop and finally begin to see successes makes me so proud. And seeing fire crew members that are proud to be a part of K1 makes me really happy.

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

People who complain. I know that everything isn't perfect. People are so used to me being so on top of things that if I forget something it's a national incident. Also, people who think that I owe them something regardless of how much they deserve it or how little they work.

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

I love being a part of the Klamath Campaign. Being involved in such a massive change is really inspirational. I also feel like I do a great deal around the office and I am motivated when I am learning and doing.

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

Depending on whether I have to deal with childcare (or lack thereof) I generally work a 40 hr week. I end up taking lots of sick and annual (it never builds up to a whole week). Usually I work at the office, but the Klamath Campaign takes me to various meetings, the Fire Crew takes me here and there whenever they have a minor emergency and running the crew through KCDC takes me to Happy Camp. Recently with the fires, I have been in the Happy Camp and Orleans USFS offices more than I would like.

9) How do you relieve stress?

Swimming in the Salmon River during the summer, hanging out with friends and decompressing, chillin' at home. Sometimes taking off to the city somewhere to see fam or just hang out with friends.

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

My job doesn't include a ton of traveling. Lots of driving sometimes. Usually when I travel it's some epic trip to Scotland or Omaha with the Klamath Campaign. Lots of protests and rally's that are enjoyable when we make our point.

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

I really don't know anyone that is interested in this line of work. Sometimes working for the Tribe here can seem like a dead end, but it's what you make of it. There is plenty of room to be successful and still be home.

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

Hit snooze, hit snooze, crawl out of bed tired, wake up my 5 yr old Nick-nekich and my 3 year old Chaas, turn on Scooby-doo or Diego, hop in the shower, get dressed, kids off to daycare and school, then to work, noon pick-up from school, daycare for the kids, chow down lunch, back to work, iced tea for caffeine, off at 5, pick up kids, home, dinner, bathtime, book time, bedtime, uncork my wine, dishes, fold clothes, vacuum, clean up bath time, wash clothes, get out clothes for tomorrow, watch a little TV and climb in bed.