**Graduate Research Assistant**

**PhD in Integrating Ecosystem Services and Human Wellbeing**

Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Human Dimensions Lab

Oregon State University Department of Fisheries and Wildlife

Corvallis, OR

The Human Dimensions of Fisheries and Wildlife lab at Oregon State University is seeking an outstanding PhD student to contribute to applied research on multicriteria, cumulative impact decision tools that facilitate integrating human wellbeing and ecosystem services in natural resource planning. The student will be funded by an EPA grant to work with the Puget Sound Partnership in Washington State, a Postdoctoral scholar, and Dr. Biedenweg at OSU. The student will be expected to play an active roll in community-based collaborative research and project management. He or she will receive 3 years of Research Assistantship and 1 year of teaching assistantship and will develop and implement a project-related dissertation in collaboration with Dr. Kelly Biedenweg.

**Start date:** Spring or Fall of 2017

**Funding:** 3 years of RA and 1 year of TA that covers tuition, benefits and stipend

**Expectations**:

* Design and conduct original, empirical research on multivariate, cumulative impact decision analysis that integrates ecosystem services and human health and wellbeing in the Puget Sound
* Work with existing regional groups to integrate human wellbeing and ecosystem services into Puget Sound restoration planning
* Teach one E-Campus course per year in Communications or Multicultural Perspectives in Natural Resource Management
* Co-author ~1 manuscript every two years with Dr. Biedenweg
* Submit proposals to obtain addition research funding support
* Follow departmental guidelines to meet graduation requirements in about 4 years
* Spend a minimum of one year in the Puget Sound region to conduct research and facilitate the project
* Already have a completed M.S. in relevant field

To apply:

Please send a CV with the names of 3 references, a cover letter describing your interest in this project, and a 3-4 page research proposal describing (in general) the research you would like to conduct, including hypotheses/questions, methods, justification, and intended products to Dr. Kelly Biedenweg, Kelly.biedenweg@oregonstate.edu. Applications accepted until filled.

**Further Information about the Puget Sound Partnership’s Vital Signs**

http://www.psp.wa.gov/vitalsigns/index.php

**Further Information about Proposed EPA Project**

Objectives

1. Conduct community-engaged Cumulative Impacts Assessments with 5-9 communities. Summarize generalizable tools, lessons learned, and performance metrics for common strategies that could impact ecosystem services and human wellbeing.

2. Test the factors under which communities are willing and able to use Cumulative Impact Assessments and existing data to include ecosystem service and human wellbeing considerations in natural resource planning.

Experimental Approach

Work with 5-9 community groups in the Puget Sound to develop conceptual models and cumulative impact assessments using one of four tools, existing social and ecological data, results from prior stressor assessments, and quantitative and qualitative interaction measures. Use participant observation, interviews and a survey with group participants to assess the factors that influenced group decisions to use existing data and integrate human wellbeing and ecosystem services into action planning.

Expected Outputs

* Conceptual models and cumulative impact assessments of Puget Sound Vital Signs that can be integrated into a Puget Sound Atlantis model
* Best practices for integrating diverse types of data to assess cumulative impacts across ecological and human wellbeing objectives
* Local Ecological Restoration plans for 5-9 regional groups that consider ecosystem services and human wellbeing in addition to ecological outcomes.
* Identified tradeoffs and consequences of potential restoration strategies for both human and ecological health
* Demonstrated psychological, social and institutional factors that support the engagement and use of data by communities, state agencies, and researchers