

Summer 2023 Sustainability Scholars Program Internship Opportunity

The UBC Sustainability Initiative (USI) is pleased to offer current UBC graduate students the opportunity to work on funded sustainability internship projects. Successful candidates work under the mentorship of a partner organization, and are immersed in real world learning where they can apply their research skills and contribute to advancing sustainability across the region.

- Visit the [Sustainability Scholars Program website](#) to learn [how the program works](#) and to [apply](#).
- Be sure to review the application guide on the Apply page to confirm your eligibility before applying.

Applications close at midnight on Sunday January 29, 2023.

> This is a Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative Project <

The [Fraser Estuary Research Collaborative](#) (FERC) is focussed on advancing efforts to protect the Fraser River estuary in collaboration with key NGO and Indigenous partners. If you are interested in producing new knowledge and supporting Fraser estuary protection through scientific, technical, governance and policy innovations, the following project might be for you.

Read on for more details.

Project title: Conservation Planning for Culturally Significant Species at Risk in S'ólh Téméxw

Project Background & Overview:

S'ólh Téméxw is the halq'eméylem name for the shared asserted territory of the Stó:lō peoples, centered on the Lower Fraser River in British Columbia. In English, it can be translated as “our world” or “our land.” Within this shared territory, there are approximately 69 Species at Risk (SAR), which have been listed under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA) as being of special concern, threatened, or endangered. Many of these SAR have been identified as priority species for Stó:lō peoples due to their historic or ongoing cultural significance – meaning, the fundamental role that these species play in diet, material, medicines, and/or spiritual practices.

Impacts to these species in S'ólh Téméxw are numerous, and include threats like climate change and flooding, land use changes, forestry, and contaminated air and water quality, amongst others. While governments across federal, provincial/territorial, and local levels are actively working together to create SAR management and recovery plans, Stó:lō peoples continue to have very little input on the development and implementation of these plans. Further, there is an ongoing need for Indigenous-led conservation planning for culturally significant, priority SAR,

guided by a Stó:lō perspective or worldview. Indigenous-led conservation planning holds the potential to offer new insights and guidance on how to protect and restore SAR in S'ólh Téméxw for generations to come.

Project description

This project involves collaboratively assisting in the design of a conservation plan and conservation activities that protect and restore culturally significant SAR in Stó:lō territory. This work is part of a three-year partnership between the S'ólh Téméxw Stewardship Alliance (STSA) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) that began in 2020.

Broadly, the goals of this work are to strengthen the STSA's relationship with ECCC and build capacity to participate in referrals, conservation, and stewardship activities for SAR within S'ólh Téméxw, and in particular for culturally significant SAR. With fieldwork and data collection already planned for the spring of 2023, this project will involve working closely with STSA staff and external consultants to incorporate Indigenous knowledge and scientific data into the design of a multi-species conservation plan for culturally significant SAR.

Importantly, this plan will engage with First Nation priorities and goals around culturally significant SAR. Culturally significant SAR that have been identified as priorities for this project include Coastal Giant Salamander, Wolverine, and Pacific Great Blue Heron.

The multi-species conservation plan will:

- improve our knowledge base for understanding the current state of these SAR
- help design conservation activities that promote the continued protection of these SAR
- promote awareness of the current state of these SAR amongst Stó:lō peoples and the broader public.

Further, this conservation plan will help highlight the cultural importance of these (and other) SAR, demonstrating the critical need for First Nations to have continued access to species that have been and continue to hold importance to Stó:lō peoples for a variety of reasons. The conservation plan will be used by STSA and Stó:lō peoples to design and implement a variety of conservation activities that help to protect and restore culturally significant SAR in S'ólh Téméxw.

Project scope

1. Work in collaboration with STSA staff and external consultants to design a conservation plan utilizing data and Indigenous Knowledge on culturally significant SAR like Coastal Giant Salamander, Wolverine, and Pacific Great Blue Heron, including proposed conservation activities for protection of these species. Questions to explore include:
 - a. How can Indigenous knowledge and scientific data be incorporated into a conservation plan that reflects Stó:lō peoples' concerns and priorities around culturally significant SAR?

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- b. How can data on multiple species be incorporated into a conservation plan that holistically addresses concerns related to all three identified culturally significant SAR?
 - c. What potential conservation activities could be proposed from the results of the multi-species conservation plan?
2. In collaboration with STSA staff and an external consultant, design a research proposal for exploring the impacts of climate change and drought on Coastal Giant Salamander, specifically.
 - a. Design a research proposal that addresses the question: how has climate change and the recent drought in the Fraser Valley impacted populations of Coastal Giant Salamander?
3. Participate in field work as needed/desired, to increase understanding of how data is being collected on culturally significant SAR by the STSA team.

Deliverables

Three deliverables are expected from this work:

- A final report containing a summary of the work completed, with feedback from the STSA team incorporated.
- A final report for the online public-facing Scholars Project Library (with Nation-specific information removed as per STSA direction).
- A final presentation given to the STSA board and consulting team on the results of the project (presentation to be shared with STSA team).

Time Commitment

- This project will take 260 hours to complete: 250 hours to be allocated to the research, and 10 hours to be allocated to participating in meetings and collaboration opportunities with the rest of the FERC cohort
- This project must be completed between May 1 to August 15, 2023
- The Scholars is to complete their hours between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday to Friday, approximately 17 to 20 hours per week.
- The Scholar must live in the lower mainland and be available to attend FERC meetings and events in person.

Required/preferred Skills and Background

- Excellent research and writing skills
- Demonstrated interest in sustainability
- Experience conducting stakeholder engagement events, including facilitation skills, is an asset
- Familiarity with research methodologies and survey techniques
- Statistical analysis
- Excellent public speaking and presentation skills
- Community engagement experience

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- ☒ Strong analytical skills
- ☒ Ability to work independently
- ☒ Deadline oriented
- ☒ Project management and organizational skills
- ☒ Strong technical and drafting skills
- ☒ Demonstrated experience in creating conservation plans
- ☒ We welcome all candidates to apply for this position. We especially encourage applicants who have lived experience and/or strong knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing and/or Indigenous culture.

Additional project notes

The selected Scholar has the option of working in a hybrid setting, with 1-2 days spent in the office in Chilliwack. If the scholar does not have access to a vehicle, car pooling can be arranged. All field gear required for fieldwork will be provided by the STSA.

Applications close **midnight Sunday January 29, 2023**

Apply here: [Click here to apply](#)

Contact Karen Taylor at sustainability.scholars@ubc.ca if you have questions

Useful Resources

We are holding a special **resume preparation workshop for prospective Scholars** on January 23, 2023. [Click here for details and to register.](#)

Below are some links to useful resources to help you with your resume and cover letter (there are many more online). Some of these resources also provide information on preparing for your interview.

<https://students.ubc.ca/career/career-resources/resumes-cover-letters-curricula-vitae>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/current-students/graduate-pathways-success>

<https://www.grad.ubc.ca/cover-letter-cv-resume-templates-ubc-career-services>