Graduate Intern Position: Best Management Practices Research Assistant

The Puget Sound Partnership’s (PSP) Stewardship Division is seeking a graduate intern to perform research on Best Management Practices (BMPs) related to protecting habitat and water quality in the Puget Sound watershed. The intern position can be for either 10 hours per week (2 credits) or 20 hours per week (4 credits).

The intern will perform research related to either a single or a small set of BMPs, with the purpose of comparing, contrasting and analyzing methods and effectiveness of environmental behavior change programs. The BMPs will be related to reducing stormwater pollution and/or impacts on salmon habitat, and may include behaviors associated with yard care, vehicle maintenance, pet waste, hazardous waste disposal and riparian buffers. The intern will have the opportunity to provide input into the BMPs chosen for research.

The research tasks the intern will be expected to perform include:

* Select BMPs for research with assistance from PSP staff.
* Conduct an online search to identify existing programs that address selected BMP(s). Search includes programs outside of Washington State.
* Conduct information interviews, via phone and/or email, with staff from appropriate projects identified in search. Intern will develop interview questions with assistance from PSP staff.
* Compile and analyze information on existing programs and methods into a coherent document.

Required skills and abilities:

* High personal motivation, self-management, and detail-orientation; ability to take responsibility in meeting deadlines and making progress without direct supervision.
* Strong spoken and written communications skills.
* Willingness and ability to initiate contact with staff from BMP programs to clearly communicate the intent of research project and set up information interviews.
* Willingness and ability to follow multiple “rabbit trails” that result from information interviews to find additional programs and BMP related information.
* Maintain accurate records of phone and email interviews.
* Ability to travel to PSP’s Tacoma office for weekly in-person meetings with PSP staff.
* Experience collecting, analyzing and interpreting qualitative and/or quantitative data highly desired.

PSP will be able to provide occasional desk space for the intern, however the intern need to be able to perform work tasks from a remote location (e.g. home or school campus). The intern must have access to a computer (laptop strongly desired) and cell phone.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume and contact information for three references to Cara Ianni at Cara.ianni@psp.wa.gov. In your cover letter, please address any experience and *examples of* the skills you possess that pertain to the intern tasks listed above, and also indicate if you are interested in a 2 credit or 4 credit position. Applications must be received no later than Sunday, March 9, 2014. Positions are expected to begin the week of 3/31/14 with the start of spring quarter.