

**YAKAMA NATION HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT  
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**



**Announcement #** 2017-256      **Issue Date:** 11-14-17      **Closing Date:** 11-30-17

**Environmental Scientist**  
**Water Code**  
**Department of Natural Resources**  
**Hourly Wage: \$24.90/Regular/Full-Time**

Provides scientific and technical guidance, support, and coordination to the Water Code in its mission to implement and enforce *Chiish Tamanwit*, Title 60 Water Code and Title 61 Hydraulic Code. Promotes the public understanding of *Chiish Tamanwit*, the Yakama Nation's primary law governing water use and protection, through public interactions, presentations, and reports.

Assists WCA staff in investigations of water uses and other activities affecting the water resources of the Yakama Nation to determine whether such uses and activities are in compliance with *Chiish Tamanwit*. Reviews applications for permits and analyzes their technical merits according to the Code and relevant policy. Provides analysis and interpretation of data, designs, maps, and field information. Makes recommendations to decision makers for approvals or denials. This includes drafting conditions or provisions to be followed by permittees in order to comply with *Chiish Tamanwit*.

Works as a team member, facilitates meetings and coordinates technical review by other Yakama Nation experts and legal counsel in the science and policies of water use and protection. Water Code applications involve groundwater and surface water use, as well as protection of habitat in streams. Types of applications that are reviewed include, but are not limited to, well construction, well decommission, surface and ground water withdrawals, disposal of wastewater and storm waters, and hydraulic work in or near streams and other water bodies on the Yakama Reservation. This job entails utilizing expertise from within and outside programs about existing hydrologic data and knowledge of Reservation geography and policies to develop permit conditions and recommendations. Provides information to assist enforcement officers in documenting justification for issuing compliance orders, stop work orders, notice of violations, and related enforcement decisions based on sound technical and legal grounds rooted in Titles 60 and 61. Assesses and drafts policy revisions and/or code amendments to assist the Water Code in implementing the Water Code *Chiish Tamanwit*.

**Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Knowledge of and wiliness to learn about the Yakama Nation, its Treaty and Reservation, and the religious, spiritual and cultural significance of Water to Yakama people.
- Knowledge of basic hydrologic principles.
- Knowledge of water uses.
- Knowledge of Tribal, State and Federal laws, regulations, policies and procedures pertaining to the regulation of water resources.
- Knowledge of the principles and application of the science, tools, and techniques of water in water regulation and management.
- Skill in performing water use calculations as rates and volume, and conversions to different units of measure.
- Skill in interacting and communicating effectively orally and in writing on technical issues to diverse groups including staff, the public and other governmental agencies.
- Skill in reading maps and generating GIS maps.
- Skill in research, review and analysis of complex laws, regulations and technical information and data.
- Skill in establishing and maintaining effective work relationships with co-workers and work-related contacts.
- Skill in analyzing natural resources data in the application of appropriate regulatory policies.
- Skill in operating a computer and office equipment, including appropriate software.

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- Skill in operating technical equipment related to the duties.
- Skill in making effective presentations on controversial or complex topics to the public, management and elected officials.
- Ability to develop professional interpersonal working relationships with others regardless of their ethnic backgrounds and educational levels.
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Ability to walk, bend, lift, push and carry self and equipment in difficult terrain.
- Ability to work simultaneously on complex work assignments.
- Ability to work beyond the normal 8-5 day; five day work week.
- Ability to travel one to three days per month.
- Ability to understand scientific and technical information and data related to water.
- Experience working in an environmental regulatory agency.
- Experience in a water resources agency or company.
- Experience with well construction and drilling.
- Experience with environmental permitting as a regulator and/or permit applicant.
- Experience with fish habitat protection and enhancement from a regulatory perspective.
- Knowledge of the YN Water Code Ordinance.
- Knowledge of the sovereign water rights of the Yakama Nation.
- Knowledge of the geography of the Yakama Reservation.
- Knowledge of internal Tribal Governmental Operations and related programs that work with water and water related issues and concerns.
- Knowledge of trust relationship between the Yakama Nation and Federal Government.
- Examples of such qualifications include performing a variety of observations, computations, compilations and analyses, such as critical review of permits and/or environmental impact statements, in assisting higher level scientists and policy makers in carrying out environmental science assignments. This work experience would have involved following established methods and procedures; using some judgment in applying basic principles and procedures, and would have required a good general working knowledge of the principles and the theories of environmental sciences. The individual should be able to make adaptations to procedures and accepted practices and handle unexpected conditions arising in the normal course of the work. At this level, the Environmental Scientist has the ability to independently perform moderately difficult and responsible scientific, regulatory, and policy work.

**General Recruiting Indicators:**

- Minimum of a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science, Earth Science, Hydrology, Hydrogeology, Environmental or Civil Engineering, Watershed Management, Natural Resources Management, or closely related field is required and two years of experience in a natural resources or related field. A graduate degree may substitute for one year of experience.

**Special Requirements:**

- Required to pass a pre-employment drug and alcohol test.
- Required to pass a pre-employment background check.
- Must possess a valid Washington State Driver's License and have the ability to obtain a Yakama Tribal Driver's Permit.
- Yakama enrolled preference.