

Interdisciplinary Research Assistant for Natural and Social Sciences Mat-Su Ecosystem Services Valuation Project

Earth Economics is a non-profit organization that promotes ecosystem health and ecological economics. UAA's Institute of Social and Economic Research (ISER) enhances the well-being of Alaskans and others, through non-partisan research that helps people understand social and economic systems and supports informed public and private decision-making. We are working as an interdisciplinary team on economic valuations for ecosystem services in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Our team of researchers is looking for a research assistant to be housed at ISER. Candidates must live in Southcentral Alaska, be familiar with the Mat-Su Borough, and be seeking a graduate or undergraduate degree in economics, public policy, environmental science, geography or a related field. Ideal candidates will have deep local knowledge of the area and have an aptitude for interdisciplinary research.

Tasks may include, but are not limited to:

- ~ Review of primary ecosystem service economic valuation studies applicable to the region (50% of workload).
- ~ Assist ISER and Earth Economics staff with economic research with an emphasis on ecological issues, sustainable development, watershed resources and history, and economic analysis of ecosystem health and dynamics (30% of workload).
- ~ Support a cross-organizational team with administrative tasks such as workshop and focus group planning and execution, grant seeking, fundraising, and grant writing (20% of workload).
- ~ Work 10 to 15 hours per week (anticipated).

Qualifications:

- ~ Knowledge of microeconomic theory, natural resource and environmental economics, and/or natural resource management preferred.
- ~ Strong written, verbal and organizational skills.
- ~ Demonstrable ability to conduct and summarize research or literature reviews in a concise, timely, and intelligible manner.
- ~ Self-motivation and ability to work independently are critical.
- ~ Understanding of the local ecology, economy and community of the Mat-Su.
- ~ Ability to commit to a one year project is desired.

Compensation:

- ~ Compensation and course credit is available. Federal work-study is desired, but not required.
- ~ Anticipated duration of this project is one year, starting September 2012.

To apply online, please visit: www.uakjobs.com/applicants/Central?quickFind=78572