
Application Deadline: **Open until filled**

Job Title: Public Funding Finance Specialist

Location: Flexible (open to remote, hybrid, or Portland OR-based)

Position Type: Full-time

Expected Start Date: Flexible, but hope for ASAP

Who we are: The Freshwater Trust (TFT) is a non-profit leader in watershed analysis, restoration/ conservation program design, and implementation. Our team members are building tools and creating and testing new solutions that will help to create resiliency in our rivers. With a mission of preserving and restoring freshwater ecosystems, our approach is driven by science, data, and results (see our [Core Values](#)).

With headquarters in Portland, OR, TFT employs 50+ team members, with a primary footprint in the western United States, and active projects in California, Colorado, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. We currently have three physical offices in Portland, Ashland, OR and Sacramento, CA. Our team members range in background and skillset; teams include a philanthropy and fundraising team, communications team, science and analytics team, restoration team, legal team, finance team, and administrative and systems support.

Who you are: With a background in public finance and a desire to apply your experience in the pursuit of TFT's system change-driven mission, you have the ability to successfully help support TFT in structuring transactions that potentially involve multiple public and private revenue and financing streams, and convert your transactional experience with into broader systemic improvements (e.g., support our policy and legislative interventions). Experienced in structuring and closing environmental finance transactions (ideally related to aggregated portfolios of smaller distributed—as opposed to bigger centralized—water, agriculture, and/or energy projects), you desire to improve the public funding and finance system in a way that makes it much easier to fund, finance, and implement “portfolios” of small projects at the institutional scale. As a public finance builder with a vision, you will work under the direction and guidance of the VP – Finance & Policy to craft scalable reforms that allow for public capital to successfully move the needle on conservation.

Position Responsibilities:

- Advise on ideal structure for implementing a watershed “outcomes bank” model (see [explanatory video](#)) that can secure various revenue and financing streams, and direct those funds to the best priority projects identified by [precision watershed analytics](#).
- Advise on how purchase/payback commitments could be structured so that they can be used as collateral to secure financing for the Outcomes Bank.
- Identify and vet the ideal financing/risk management approach and lead efforts to secure financing once payback revenue streams have been secured.
- Advise on policy interventions to overcome current public funding and financial barriers and participate in policy working groups.
- Create financial models and diligence materials necessary to support these “blended” transactions.
- Advise on build-out of back-end accounting and management system (aka “StreamBank Enterprise”) that would attribute costs and environmental benefits to projects and funders while simplifying the transaction for landowners. Additional information on “StreamBank Enterprise” can be found [here](#).
- Identify and develop engagement strategies in alignment with leadership priorities and goals.

Areas of Expertise:

- Deep understanding of agricultural, water, or energy finance, or similar public lending/guarantee programs where lots of different colors of money are required to deploy projects at scale.
- Deep understanding of federal grant, award, contract, and procurement requirements and processes.
- Deep understanding of the project development process and hurdles for environmental/social good projects.
- Knowledge and understanding of state/local/municipal ratepayer bonding, private finance structuring and needs, utilizing tax mechanisms, and public pension fund investment requirements a plus.
- Advanced financial analysis and economic case building.

Desired Skills and Qualifications:

- Degree in business, economics, finance, or related field.
- 5+ years professional experience in the public funding and finance sector, including some demonstrated public policy experience.
- Entrepreneurial experience starting up new programs or initiatives, including demonstrated experience originating and completing transactions
- Breadth of knowledge across multiple disciplines (e.g., finance, law, and policy) and a strong working understanding of agriculture, water, and energy issues.
- Expertise in scalable models for financing environmental infrastructure (e.g., environmental impact bonds, pay for success, purchasing outcomes).
- Advanced and confident excel user.
- Strong time-management skills with ability to be flexible and responsive to changing task priorities.

Seeking Perseverant, Creative and Energetic Candidates Who:

- Have a passion for the mission and values of The Freshwater Trust.
- Exhibit professionalism, confidence, intellectual curiosity, and resilience.
- Like to build something on their own and are entrepreneurial/resourceful
- Possess a valid driver's license and hold legal authority to work permanently in the US.
- Are fully vaccinated against COVID-19.

Compensation:

- Competitive salary based on experience
- The Freshwater Trust believes in investing in our employees, their health, and future through our benefits offerings. Our total rewards package includes health and dental coverage, automatic retirement employer contributions, commuter benefits and cell phone/internet reimbursement. We support our staff with 5 weeks of paid time off plus over 10 paid holidays per year. We also offer perks such as staff retreats, sabbatical for full time staff after seven years, and professional development opportunities.

Application Instructions:

Please provide a cover letter and resume (including references) [here](#).

Interested candidates from historically underrepresented communities are strongly encouraged to apply. The Freshwater Trust is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate in its selection of candidates for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex or sexual orientation, marital status, disability, age, military service, family medical history, legal source of income, gender identity, political affiliation, or family leave obligations. ADA accommodations will be provided upon request.