
Application Deadline: Open until filled**Job Title:** Water Policy & Legislative Specialist**Location:** Portland, OR preferred (virtual position also possible)**Position Type:** Full-time**Expected Start Date:** Q1 2023

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](#)). The Freshwater Trust is a systems change-focused nonprofit that builds and deploys technical, financial, and policy tools to enable large-scale solutions that bolster watershed resiliency.

With headquarters in Portland, OR, TFT employs 50+ team members across Oregon, Idaho, Washington and California. We currently have three physical offices in Portland, Ashland, OR and Sacramento, CA. Our team members range in background and skillset; teams include philanthropy and fundraising, communications, science and analytics, restoration, legal, finance, and administrative and systems support.

Who you are: Passionate about our mission, disciplined and eager to learn how TFT is working to increase the pace and scale of freshwater ecosystem conservation. This role is ideal for an individual with a background and interest in conservation policy work, who can work independently on nuanced and fast-moving efforts that often require lots of creativity, and who possesses exceptional organizational and written and oral communication skills.

What will you be doing?

- Supporting TFT's legislative efforts at the federal level and across multiple western states, including providing legislative drafting support, legislator/agency personnel briefing support, bill tracking, schedule coordination and follow-up support.
- Investigating, providing guidance on, and supporting the drafting of multiple public funding applications that help TFT and its partners secure coordinated watershed-scale funding (via massive Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Infrastructure Reduction Act funding infusions in FY 2023-26) and help us move closer to a "[watershed outcomes bank](#)" approach in several priority western watersheds.
- Researching and drafting water policy-related deliverables and work product both for clients and in support of TFT's various regulatory efforts.
- Coordinating with TFT's Communications Department to drive multi-tier communications efforts (e.g., policy newsletter/blog posts, explanatory videos, story maps) that help to convey TFT's content to the right audiences in digestible and appealing formats.
- This position will report to the VP of Finance & Policy, and provide support to the VP of Water, Regional VP - California, and the Senior Attorney & Policy Specialist.

What is your background and skillset?

- Bachelor's degree required, with focus and/or professional experience in a water-related field.
- J.D. strongly preferred though not required with a demonstrated history of environmental policy involvement.

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- At least 1-2 years professional experience in the water policy space, preferably with demonstrated legislative and regulatory experience related to water/natural resources.
 - Impatience with the status quo and a desire to drive systems change: TFT works to secure durable improvements to the conservation funding and implementation systems in order to realize bigger, better, faster outcomes at the watershed-scale.
 - Ability to complete deep research into complex regulatory and statutory contexts to figure out how a program does operate and the ability to think creatively about how it could operate, as well as the skills to translate that work into concrete strategies and actions for implementation.
 - Comfort working in a dynamic, fast-paced environment where information and needs change rapidly and an ability to quickly deliver and iterate on high-quality work product.
 - Capable of working remotely, both independently with a lot of proactive autonomy and as part of a multi-disciplinary team.
 - Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written; ability to learn, use and improve internal tracking and coordination tools and processes.

Benefits and 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 full health and dental coverage, automatic 5% retirement employer contributions, commuter benefits and cell phone reimbursement. Because we are all in, we value getting out, and 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:

Supply a Cover Letter, Resume, and a list of 3 References combined into a single PDF not to exceed 5MB. Submit required information and documentation [here](#).