

**PNW Research Station  
Scientist Recruitment Initiative  
RWU Proposal  
(June 2000)**

**Name of Proposal Contact:** Linda Kruger  
**RWU Title:** People and Natural Resources Program  
**Phone number:** 206-732-7832  
**Fax number:** 206-732-7801  
**E-mail address:** lkruger@fs.fed.us  
**Mailing address:** Seattle Forestry Sciences Laboratory  
4043 Roosevelt Way NE  
Seattle, WA 98105-6497

**Name and contact points of proposed position supervisor:** Linda Kruger

**Position title/discipline of proposed position:** Research Social Scientist/ Geographer

**Brief description of proposed RWU/graduate research supported through this position:**

The student will be involved with members of the People and Natural Resources Program in the development of an integrated approach that crosses social science disciplines and bridges between the social sciences and biophysical sciences in addressing complex issues such as the relationship between water and recreation and the reciprocal influences of biophysical systems and the socio-cultural or human component of systems. Topics include population dynamics in relation to land use and landscape change, public perceptions of and attitudes toward change, and the implications of changing policy and management on attitudes toward and use of public lands.

The basic goal of this research is to improve the ability of land managers to develop and successfully implement programs and practices to sustain vital natural resources and provide high quality diverse public values and uses for both urban and rural populations. This research will improve integration of public concerns and uses into resource management, hopefully reducing conflicts among different uses and between citizens and resource managers while simultaneously increasing understanding of the effects of such uses on other biophysical resources, such as water and wildlife. The Program and Station have identified integration as a research priority for the Program and have expressed the desire to staff the Program to achieve this goal. The proposed position is identified in Station workforce planning and budget documents.

**Desirable academic qualifications of the student recruit:** Masters Degree (preferred) or Bachelors Degree completed and enrolled in a Masters Program in Geography (with an emphasis on natural resources), Natural Resources Sociology, Forestry or Natural Resources with an emphasis on social sciences. The goal of the position would be to complete a Ph.D. program prior to conversion to a Research Social Scientist.

**Colleges/universities:** University of Washington, University of Alaska, Central Washington University, Washington State University.

**Potential colleges/universities to provide graduate education:** The University of Washington has programs in Geography, Sociology, Anthropology, Political Sciences, Forestry, Marine

Affairs, Urban Design and Planning, and Landscape Architecture. The Seattle Forestry Sciences Lab is located adjacent to the campus enabling the student to interact with PNW scientists on a daily basis. The Program and Station have several joint venture agreements and cooperative agreements with University faculty.

**Brief description of the community environment at the sponsoring work unit (including housing, transportation, and recreational opportunities, ethnic breakdown):**

The Greater Seattle area excels in livability with a mild climate, affordable housing, a full range of arts, cultural and sporting events, an abundance of shops and restaurants, and easy access to outdoor recreational activities throughout the year. For those with families, Seattle was recently ranked as the best major US city for kids based on criteria such as health, education and public safety. Several National Parks and National Forests and the waters of Puget Sound surround the Seattle area providing a variety of recreation opportunities. Ballroom and other social dance forms are making a big comeback in Seattle. Monthly art walks and numerous art galleries and museums provide outlets for a growing art community.

The 1998 Seattle population was 539,700 and the Greater Seattle area had a population of just over 3 million. The population is ethnically and racially diverse with 75% Caucasian, 10% African American, 11.2% Asian, 3.5% Hispanic, and 1.5% Native American Indian. Numerous community events throughout the year celebrate the community's diverse population. All major religions are represented.

Housing is available in a variety of forms around the campus. The average monthly rent in King County for a studio is \$563, one-bedroom \$654, and two-bedroom \$890. Housing is slightly more expensive in Seattle, however shared housing is readily available in the University area. Transportation services are good with regular bus service to the campus from around the greater Seattle area. Bike trails through campus connect the University, the Seattle Lab, and communities to the north and west. Amtrak and Greyhound provide regular service and the Sea-Tac airport connects Seattle to the rest of the world.

**Proposed temporary housing options for the student while working away from the campus (for example while working at the sponsoring work unit during summer months):**

The student will be working at the Seattle Lab adjacent to the University campus and therefore will not need temporary housing during summer months. If travel is required to fulfill the student's work responsibilities the Program will cover travel costs.

**Brief explanation of how this proposal supports the Scientist Recruitment Initiative:**

The People and Natural Resources Program and the PNW Research Station have identified the need for a new scientist. This initiative provides the opportunity to train a candidate to fill the needs of the Program enabling the Program to expand its capacity to provide integrative research and development while at the same time meeting the agency's needs for increased diversity.

Station Priority of proposal: Priority 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Priority 2 \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that acceptance of this proposal will result in commitment to hire the student into a full-time permanent scientist position at my unit upon successful completion of the program.

/s/ Linda Kruger

Acting for Roger Clark, Program Manager

6/12/2000