



Restoration Permitting Policy Lead

Summary

We need to speed up the pace and scale of restoration in the U.S. and around the world so that it can match the need for ecological restoration, to finance nature-based solutions through recent infrastructure bills, to deliver nature offsets that address the damage caused by new development (even sustainable development), and to facilitate restoration work that meets the needs of corporate and finance policies.

Our team is focused on making permit streamlining work for restoration. Restoration projects - for example stream and wetland restoration - have to sit at a permitting 'red light' for three years. We want to turn that red light green through education for agency personnel, sharing examples of where restoration is already happening faster, and harnessing the power of new policies that have opened the door to faster restoration outcomes such as through NEPA reform, programmatic biological opinions, and inter-agency coordination.

About EPIC

The Environmental Policy Innovation Center (EPIC) builds policies that deliver spectacular improvement in the speed and scale of environmental progress. A nonprofit start-up, EPIC is committed to finding and highlighting the best approaches to scaling up results quickly. EPIC focuses on clean water, endangered species, environmental markets and the use of data and technology in producing environmental and public health outcomes. Our largest program is focused on delivering better, safer and more affordable water infrastructure to disadvantaged and historically underinvested communities. For more information on the restoration program at EPIC, see [this link](#).

Position Description

EPIC seeks a Permitting Lead for a full-time position to lead aspects of EPIC's work on identifying priority actions and opportunities for improving the speed and scale of restoration permitting. This person will have expertise in federal and state-level environmental permitting and review processes, including NEPA, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and similar environmental laws. In support of our partners and a major philanthropic foundation, the Permitting Lead will develop materials to educate and to broaden the understanding of permitting requirements around major federal funding sources and the opportunities to resolve permitting challenges so that important projects can get built well and faster. They will also lead development of our and our partners' strategy in ways that benefit the deployment of restoration and conservation projects through 2025 and beyond.

Responsibilities

- Develop briefing papers and webinars designed to educate us and others about ongoing federal legislative actions and administrative processes focused on permitting and on priority ideas of EPIC and others for continuing reforms.
- Interview staff (from our and partner organizations) regarding the permit challenges they have encountered.

- Develop and coordinate a panel of individuals who have real-time exposure to permitting problems related to federal and state environmental permitting programs; coordinate and lead the group to workshop the best ideas for permitting improvements; collect data and research that will help us identify patterns, problems, barriers and solutions to better permitting and nature-based infrastructure approval.
- Work with partners to solve or at least identify solutions for specific permitting problems.
- Develop and draft legislative and regulatory proposals for federal, state and local use.
- Employ innovation and creative problem-solving skills to identify challenges and adaptive solutions.

Qualifications

Candidates must have:

- Bachelor's degree required. Graduate degree (MBA, MS, MEM, MF, MPA, or JD) preferred.
- 5+ years' experience in law, policy, markets or finance related to: environmental restoration, nature-based solutions, mitigation, restoration finance, climate change; or environmental credits. We will also consider time pursuing a graduate degree toward some of the years of experience requirement.
- Experience as an environmental regulator or with procuring permits for restoration projects for engineering, restoration or nonprofit organizations or for a government agency.
- Project management experience and ability to manage time well, set deadlines, and follow through on projects.
- Strong listening skills for interviews and to understand a range of permitting-related issues from a range of perspectives.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills, including presenting to an audience, answering questions in real time, and facilitating discussions and panel presentations.

We will prioritize candidates who can bring:

- Experience with charitable foundation strategic planning.
- Creative energy and technical acumen that allows the candidate to be a leader in developing new permitting strategies and solutions.
- Experience communicating natural resources policies and practices to a lay audience.

Salary Range

\$85,000-\$95,000 annually, based on experience and qualifications.

Location

Remote or Washington, D.C. region. This position may require occasional travel to meetings, conferences, and other events. Work other than travel is done at the candidate's home office or at the EPIC office in the D.C. metro area. NOTE: We cannot employ residents of Alaska and Hawaii.

Benefits

EPIC offers a generous benefits package including health, dental and vision care, 401k contributions and four weeks of paid time off.

Applying

Qualified candidates, who are also authorized to work lawfully in the United States, should send an email to Becca Madsen, Restoration Economy Center Director at becca@policyinnovation.org with an email subject of "Restoration Permitting Lead". Please include a resume and a cover letter labeled with your last name, followed

by the document type (e.g. "Ibrahim_Resume"). You may also provide any supporting documents we should consider in evaluating your candidacy (e.g., writing samples, references).

We believe that including more people from a broad diversity of backgrounds, including people of color, people from working class backgrounds, women, and LGBTQ people, is essential for achieving our vision. We strongly encourage applications from people with these identities or who are members of other marginalized communities.

Additionally, we know there is not one ideal candidate who has all these traits so if you have a mix of interests, skills, and experience related to the above – and a passion for this work – please don't let a gap in your strengths for this role stop you from applying or reaching out. Thanks for your interest in the position.