



SARA POTTER

Project Ecologist III

Sara has been an environmental consultant since 2014, applying her expertise in aquatic sciences on a variety of projects. She provides permitting support for natural resources and land use projects, specializing in marine impact assessments and shoreline mitigation/restoration. Sara performs wetland studies, threatened and endangered species surveys, stream and nearshore surveys, marine mammal monitoring, and similar assessments. She has expertise in local, state, and federal environmental policies and regulations, and she routinely conducts regulatory research and data synthesis and prepares documentation (e.g., biological assessments, critical areas reports, mitigation plans) to meet regulatory requirements. Sara is experienced in managing field investigations from start to close-out, including natural resource and remediation site studies and planning, budgeting, and quality assurance/quality control for written deliverables.

Representative Projects

Tokeland Marina Floating Upweller System (FLUPSY) Permitting Support, Shoalwater Bay Tribe (dba Willapa Bay Enterprises), Tokeland, WA. *Project Ecologist III.* Sara is providing permitting support for development of a FLUPSY (a shellfish aquaculture facility) for the Shoalwater Bay Tribe. Sara is preparing the biological evaluation for consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as well as the Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA) and Coastal Zone Management Act documentation for the federal permit package.

South Attenuator Replacement Project, Crane Island Association, Orcas Island, WA. *Project Ecologist III.* Sara is assisting with the Endangered Species Act analysis by preparing the biological assessment for this dock replacement project on the shoreline of Orcas Island in San Juan County, Washington. She also contributed to the submerged aquatic vegetation report and reviewed federal and state permit documentation. The purpose of the project is to ensure continued, safe use of the dock by Crane Island residents.

Clinton Passenger-Only Ferry Dock Replacement Project, Port of South Whidbey, Clinton, WA. *Project Ecologist III.* Sara is assisting with a mitigation plan compliant with the newly established Salish Sea Nearshore Programmatic consultation process for this passenger ferry dock replacement project on the shoreline of Whidbey Island in the community of Clinton, Island County, Washington. Sara is assessing project credits and debits using the Puget Sound Nearshore Habitat Conservation Calculator, interpreting potential site and landscape-scale impacts on critical species and habitat, and authoring a mitigation proposal for purchase of Puget Sound Partnership Nearshore Credits. The new dock floats will be compatible with future passenger-only ferry service.

In-Lieu Fee Wetland Permitting, Pahlisch Commercial, Kent, WA. *Project Manager.* Sara prepared a critical areas study; biological evaluation; local, state, and federal permits; and in-lieu fee bank mitigation documentation to support a high-



EDUCATION

Master of Environmental Studies, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA, 2013
B.S., Environmental, Soil and Water Science
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, AR, 2011

EXPERTISE

Aquatic Sciences
Wetland Ecology and Delineation
Field Study Design and Implementation
Environmental Permitting/Regulatory Compliance
Data Collection and Analysis

CERTIFICATIONS/TRAININGS

Wetland Delineation Certificate
Using Washington State Wetland Rating in Western Washington
Scientific Writing Specialization Course
WA State Boater's Safety Certification
Transportation Worker Identification Credential
OSHA 40-hour HAZWOPER and 8-hour HAZWOPER Supervisor

AFFILIATIONS

Women in Environment, Tacoma Peer Mentoring Group
Women in Environment, Seattle Professional Development Committee
Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC)
National Association of Wetland Managers
Shoreline and Coastal Planners Group



density residential apartment development on a desirable parcel adjacent to a new Sound Transit terminal. Sara directed review of prior documentation, prepared costs and project schedules, and determined options for the permitting package. She also coordinated extensively with the development partners, civil and stormwater engineers, and regulatory agencies.

Autumn Crest Adaptive Wetland Mitigation and Long-Term Monitoring Plan, American Homes for Rent, Lake Stevens, WA. *Project Manager.* Sara performed a site visit to assess compliance with the existing mitigation plan. She identified native vegetation and designed and authored an adaptive management plan that optimized retention of native recruits while complying with the performance goals of the initial approved design. She coordinated with local planners to initiate the adaptive management plan and realign this housing development's mitigation requirements after years of inaction.

Water Quality Monitoring Plan, Olympia Oyster Company, Shelton, WA. *Project Scientist.* Sara drafted a water quality monitoring plan for shoreline building and in- and over-water construction of an expanded oyster shucking plant and aquaculture facility. She prepared materials and authored a compliance plan in accordance with the Washington State Department of Ecology's 401 Water Quality Certification under the federal Clean Water Act.

Shoreline Violation Critical Areas Study and Permitting Assistance, Private Landowner, Poulsbo, WA. *Project Manager.* Sara conducted an ordinary high water mark delineation, assessed wildlife habitat, and contributed to permitting and mitigation planning. She designed a mitigation plan that included replacement of impervious surfaces with lower-impact materials, planting of native shrubs and trees, and removal of non-native invasive vegetation. Her analysis of shoreline code allowed partial retention of the violating structure.

On-Call SEPA/NEPA and Environmental Permitting, Port of Tacoma, WA. *Task Manager.* Sara led numerous projects assessing natural resource functions, critical habitat, and potential project impacts and mitigation measures.

Wapato Creek Fish Removal, Port of Tacoma, Tacoma, WA. Sara performed fish removal and exclusion in preparation for in-water work to remove a failing culvert on Wapato Creek. Over 2 days, she used a seine and dip nets to herd and remove fish prior to dewatering by the contractor. She counted and identified fish collected during the field event, and drafted a summary report describing the activities, issues encountered, communications with Port, and overall catch, including any unexpected species (e.g., salmonids).

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project, Washington State Department of Ecology, Lewis, Thurston, and Grays Harbor Counties, WA. Sara performed natural resource field investigations related to a proposal to install a flood retention facility and improve a levee within the upper Chehalis River Basin. The field investigations included habitat mapping; documenting and characterizing vegetation communities and wetland, stream, and upland habitats; and wildlife surveys for amphibians, birds, reptiles, and mammals.

Pier 62 Rebuild, City of Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle, WA. Sara performed marine mammal monitoring during pile removal and new pile installation (impact and vibratory) phases of the project. This also included field logistics and training staff in protected species observation.

Squalicum Harbor Water Quality Monitoring, Bellingham Cold Storage, Bellingham, WA. Sara was the field lead, primary boat captain, and coordinator during required water quality monitoring for construction compliance. She authored the water quality monitoring plan based on Washington State Department of Ecology turbidity standards, managed field staff, and operated the sampling vessel and equipment.

Priority Habitat Assessment, Hörmann Northwest Door, Puyallup, Washington. *Project Manager.* Sara directed a wetland and priority species habitat assessment for an industrial site with Oregon white oak presence. She evaluated tree retention options in accordance with Pierce County and State requirements and authored the critical areas report. She presented on-site and mitigation bank options to the client and proposed a tree retention plan.