

Invasive Species Internship

Project Location: 8600 NE 117th Avenue, Vancouver, Washington 98668

Start date: Position available starting in June. Full-time start date flexible.

Position Summary:

The watershed enhancement program at Clark Public Utilities began in 1992 and has grown to become a regionally recognized environmental restoration effort. Since the program's inception, volunteers from a variety of backgrounds have planted over 700,000 native trees to bring salmon back to Salmon Creek. Unfortunately a variety of non-native invasive plant species threaten these important riparian ecosystems.

The Invasive Species Intern will support the Utilities' Eradication Nation program. This program is focused on controlling invasive Japanese knotweed and other invasive plant species in the Salmon Creek watershed. This internship will provide the opportunity to develop a number of natural resource management skills that focus on invasive species control.

General Responsibilities (vary based on time of year and include, but are not limited to):

- Conduct knotweed surveys with staff and volunteers along streams and roads using GPS technology to map locations of infestations.
- Conduct knotweed control activities with staff and volunteers including the application of herbicides during specified treatment windows.
- Conduct follow-up monitoring activities for treated infestations.
- Assist with education and outreach activities including: direct mailings, participation in community-wide events, community presentations and leading volunteer events.
- Successfully pass Washington State Department of Agriculture pesticide exams with the assistance and training of program staff.
- Maintain detailed data records for knotweed surveys, treatment and monitoring.
- The intern will have the opportunity to develop the following skills: non-native invasive plant ecology, taxonomy and identification; invasive species management practices including surveys, mapping, treatment; community outreach and education; Global Positioning Systems (GPS) data collection; and Microsoft Office and Microsoft Excel use.

Position Requirements:

- Dedication to environmental stewardship, passion for habitat restoration.
- Willingness to work outside in all weather conditions for the entire work day. Roughly 80-90% of the intern's time will be spent in the field.
- Communicate and interact in a positive, professional manner with a variety of individuals including teammates, staff, landowners and volunteers.
- Willingness to use herbicides in invasive species control efforts, with training.
- Physical ability to travel up to five miles per day on uneven terrain (including walking in-stream) and lift up to 40 lbs.
- Willingness to operate small engine tools (e.g. chain saw, brush cutter, weed wackers), with training.

- Willingness to serve a flexible schedule (Tuesday through Friday; 7am-5:30pm), including some evenings and weekends (approximately 8-10 Saturdays). Corresponding time off is coordinated.
- Must have a valid driver's license, clean driving record and ability to provide documentation.
- Willingness and ability to drive vehicles such as passenger vans, utility vehicles and/or pick-up trucks with attached equipment trailers, with training.
- Ability to successfully pass a drug test (random or otherwise).
- 18 years of age or older at the beginning of employment.
- U.S. citizen, national or lawful permanent resident.
- Possession of a high school diploma or equivalent.
- Regular and reliable attendance.
- Compensation is dependent on college enrollment; minimum of 10 credits. School attendance is not required during summer break.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Self-motivated, cooperative, flexible team player with a strong work ethic.
- Must be willing to ask questions, seek answers and keep a positive attitude.
- Ability to effectively work independently and with teams on multiple, simultaneous, diverse tasks with attention to details, accuracy and process.
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skills to serve effectively with people of diverse talent and background
- Strong organizational skills and self-initiative to prioritize multiple projects in order to meet individual and program deadlines.
- Natural resource or biology background preferred but not a requirement.
- Strong written and verbal skills, including presentation and public speaking skills.

Work hours / internship duration:

Interns are expected to work a minimum of 40 hours per week during the summer. Flex time will be given for weeks where interns are expected to work on Saturdays. Internship duration is from early June to late September, approximately 500 hours.

Compensation:

Interns must maintain a minimum of ten credit hours per term or semester to be eligible for compensation. School attendance is not required during the summer break. \$9.50 per hour to start; \$10.50 after 520 hours. This is a non-benefited position.

Submit cover letter, resume and references to:

Bethany Lund, Invasive Species Program Coordinator, blund@clarkpud.com, 360 992 8787

Visit our website – www.streamteam.net, click on Eradication Nation for more information about the program.