Stewardship Internship

Supervisor: Stewardship Director, Jennifer Mackey
Location: Our office is located downtown at 412 North Commercial Street, Bellingham.
Stipend: Unpaid
Timeframe: Flexible; preferred availability on Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays
Application: Please email cover letter and resume to Jennifer@whatcomlandtrust.org

Position summary

Whatcom Land Trust is a non-profit organization and is an accredited land trust. The mission of the Whatcom Land Trust is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interests in land and promoting land stewardship.

The Stewardship internship implements stewardship work on Whatcom Land Trust conserved lands throughout Whatcom County under the supervision of the Stewardship Director. This internship will primarily involve monitoring Whatcom Land Trust properties, drafting monitoring reports, obtaining coordinates of surveyed property corners with a GPS, taking photos, and updating our GIS database with findings from each property visit. This internship may also involve assisting with volunteer Saturday work parties and site preparation to complete necessary ecological restoration activities and other land management needs.

Transportation to properties is provided from the office, and no personal vehicle is necessary. The Stewardship Intern is also responsible for helping the organization build and maintain positive relationship with the public, volunteers, neighboring landowners, and partners.

Position responsibilities

- Assist with annual monitoring, taking photos of properties, report creation, and recordkeeping for land trust owned properties and some conservation easement properties.

- Obtain geographic coordinates of property corners and boundaries using a GPS unit, followed by using GIS to update the land management database.

- Assist with implementation of appropriate ecological management projects on lands owned by the Land Trust such as invasive species removal, restoration project management, planting, maintenance and thinning, and trail maintenance and installation as necessary.
Qualifications

- Map orientation and interpretation skills, basic GIS mapping, GPS and field marking and associated software applications, or a strong willingness and ability to learn.
- Ability to walk several miles over rough terrain and navigate in remote areas; access remote areas of conservation properties sometimes involving traversing rugged terrain and dense vegetation; and ability to lift materials weighing up to 50 lbs.
- Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing with landowners, the public, media, professional colleagues and governmental entities.
- Attention to detail. Ability to organize and archive important files and documentation.
- Knowledge of restoration ecology, protected land management techniques, and natural history of the Pacific Northwest, or a strong willingness and ability to learn.
- Ability to safely operate and maintain tools, including brush-cutters, chainsaws, and various hand tools.

Application process

Email single PDF of cover letter and resume to Jennifer Mackey, Whatcom Land Trust’s Stewardship Director, at Jennifer@whatcomlandtrust.org. The position is open until filled.