Title: Conservation Intern
Supervisor: Gabe Epperson, Conservation Director, gabe@whatcomlandtrust.org, (360) 746-6688
Location: Our office is located downtown at 412 North Commercial Street, Bellingham.
Stipend: Quarterly, amount $500 for 10-15 hrs/week (flexible)
Timeframe: Academic quarter, Fall quarter 2019
Application: Please email cover letter and resume to gabe@whatcomlandtrust.org
Position open until filled, but preference given to students who apply before October 15, 2019.

Summary of Position
Whatcom Land Trust is a local, nationally-accredited nonprofit land conservation organization whose mission is to preserve and protect wildlife habitat, scenic, agricultural and open space lands in Whatcom County for future generations by securing interest in land, promoting land stewardship and engaging our community. We are seeking an intern to help implement our conservation program through planning, property research, mapping and property visits.

Duties:
• Work with conservation staff to research, write and contribute to property acquisitions and develop supporting materials
• Research and help the Land Trust identify critical habitat properties to protect
• Help with basic property maps using GIS software
• Learn about land conservation best practices, strategies and actions to protect special places in Whatcom County

Requirements:
• Passion for connecting people with the land
• Organized, resourceful, self-starter
• Good at working with a team, receiving input and acting on it
• Good communicator and writer
• Reliable and deadline-oriented

Training and Support Provided:
The conservation intern will work closely with an experienced conservation team to hone skills, build a professional portfolio, and get involved in Whatcom Land Trust’s projects, events and initiatives. The successful candidate will be given access to people and resources to successfully carry out duties. You will not have to make decisions without support and input. We will work together to set objectives, strategies and deadlines, and you will carry out the work independently (with supervision) with weekly progress check-ins.

How the volunteer intern will benefit from this position
It will be a rewarding and interesting experience, working with great people and supporting an important local environmental organization whose work is rooted in the land, water and species of our region, and addressing important issues like salmon habitat restoration, preserving agricultural lands, and working with partners to find solutions to address local water resources, biodiversity and a changing climate. This internship is a chance to hone your skills, add experience in land planning and conservation and build a network of professionals in the field of land conservation and environmental stewardship. Plus, we expect you will make new friends.
About Whatcom Land Trust
Whatcom Land Trust, a 501c3 nonprofit corporation, was founded in 1984 to protect natural and agricultural lands in a rapidly developing county. Since then, Whatcom Land Trust has protected more than 20,000 acres through a combination of land trust owned properties, conservation easements, and facilitated transfers and exchanges. Whatcom Land Trust conserves Whatcom’s natural heritage – its fish and wildlife habitat, marine and freshwater shorelines, parklands for recreation, forests, farmlands, scenic and culturally significant areas. The Trust accomplishes this in three general ways:

- Legal securement of land and conservation easements throughout Whatcom County
- Stewarding and restoring to health the 80-plus land trust owned reserves (approximately 4,000 acres) and 78 conservation easements (6,500 acres) that the land trust holds
- Engaging people in conservation actions – 500+ volunteers contribute more than 3,500 hours of field and organizational work annually, helping the Trust manage its lands, advocating for public funding for parks and habitat and strong public policies to conserve Whatcom’s natural heritage.

What is a Land Trust?
Land trusts are private, independent, entrepreneurial nonprofit, non-governmental organizations that have joined with landowners to protect private land in the United States. There are over 1,600 land trusts operating across the U.S. protecting more than 9 million acres of farmland, wetlands, ranches, forests, watersheds, and river corridors. There are about two dozen land trusts in Washington. Land trusts all have some attributes in common, but each land trust has its own unique working area, priorities, missions and goals.