



Invasive Species Internship



Clark Public Utilities Environmental Services – Eradication Nation

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

Start date: Positions available starting in June, applications accepted in April. 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 850,000 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. To be eligible for the internship, applicants must be enrolled in college classes during the school year. Individuals who have just graduated will also be considered.

General Responsibilities

- 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:

- Regular reliable attendance and commitment to the full duration of the internship (early June - late September).
- To be eligible for the internship, applicants must be enrolled in college classes during the school year. Individuals who have just graduated will also be considered. School attendance is not required during the summer break.
- 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. Field interns must obtain pesticide applicator license for general and aquatic applications.
- Physical ability to travel up to five miles per day on uneven terrain (including walking in-stream), lift up to 40 lbs.

- Willingness to operate small engine tools (e.g. chain saw, brush cutter, weed whackers), with training.
- Primary work week is Tuesday through Friday; 7am-5:30pm. Willingness to serve a flexible schedule, 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 reliable transportation to and from work.
- 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.

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.
- Experience with ArcPad 10 and using Trimble and Garmin units to collect data in the field
- Experience working with landowners and volunteers
- Experience with public outreach

Work hours / internship duration:

Interns are expected to work a minimum of 40 hours per week during the summer months (June-September). 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:

To be eligible for the internship, applicants must be enrolled in college classes during the school year. Individuals who have just graduated will also be considered. \$10.00 per hour to start. This is a non-benefited position.

Submit cover letter, resume and references by April 21, 2015 to:

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

Visit our website – www.streamteam.net/knotweed for more information about the program.