



Land Steward Summer Internship - Columbia Land Trust

Help preserve vital lands while learning about Land Trust conservation practices, restoration techniques, and Pacific Northwest ecology.

Position Description:

The Land Steward Intern will support land management activities on Columbia Land Trust conserved lands located throughout northwest Oregon, the Columbia River Gorge, and southwest Washington. The primary responsibility of the intern will be to support the monitoring of fee-owned lands and conservation easements. Monitoring field work will involve traversing properties by foot, taking photos, and recording observations about vegetation, wildlife, hydrology, boundaries, and other site conditions. The intern will be responsible for developing monitoring reports that include written observations, maps, and photos. In addition to monitoring activities, the intern will have the opportunity to participate in other land management activities in the field and office such as infrastructure maintenance, weed control, ecological surveys, data management and analysis, and public outreach. The position will provide exposure to environmental field work, land management practices, land conservation issues, and ecological restoration practices.

Timeline:

June – August or early September (flexible start and end date)

An average of 24 hours per week, spanned across 2-4 days per week

Position requires a commitment of at least 10 weeks

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Conduct field monitoring visits to conservation easement properties and fee-owned properties. The Land Trust monitors urban and rural properties ranging from 1-2,000 acres in size. The intern will generally be accompanied by staff, but may occasionally be asked to conduct a monitoring visit independently. (25%)
- Preparation of monitoring materials, including maps and documents, in advance of field visit. (5%)
- Process monitoring reports after visit: includes compiling monitoring photos and data, composing landowner letters, entering monitoring notes into an online database, updating maps, and filing reports. (40%)
- Support land management projects: may include mapping, infrastructure maintenance, weed control, ecological surveys or other land management activities. These activities will generally occur in the field with staff. (15%)

- Support other office tasks: may include research, writing management plans, data management, or mapping and analysis with GIS software, based on the intern's skills and interests. (up to 15%)

Desired Skills and Qualifications:

- Background in natural resource management or natural sciences
- Interest in working outdoors and a commitment to conservation
- Field experience in biology, ecological restoration or land stewardship
- Enjoys working with a wide variety of people; interest in engaging landowners in conservation and stewardship
- Ability to work in remote, often rugged, and adverse conditions
- Ability to use a compass and map
- Basic knowledge of Pacific Northwest flora and fauna
- Familiarity with GPS and GIS technology
- Strong communication, teamwork, and leadership skills
- Ability to work independently in the field and office
- Attention to detail and tolerance for data focused tasks
- Excellent writing and organizational skills
- Valid Driver's License and good driving record

Work Environment: Roughly 60% time spent in the office and 40% in the field

Supervision: The intern will be supervised by the Vancouver Land Steward with additional supervision and training provided by the Stewardship Assistant. Staff will provide training throughout the internship, establish goals and timelines, and provide on-going feedback.

Considerations: The intern will work out of Columbia Land Trust's headquarters office in Vancouver, WA. Reliable daily transportation to Vancouver is required. In addition, this position may occasionally require the use of a personal vehicle to drive to distant properties (up to 200 miles round trip). Mileage expenses incurred for this additional travel are reimbursable. The intern's schedule will be flexible to accommodate field work, which may involve 10-12 hour days. There may be opportunities for occasional overnight trips, with costs covered by the Land Trust. The intern is responsible for supplying their own basic field gear (field clothes, rain gear, boots, backpack, etc.).

Compensation: Unpaid internship. School Credit supported.

Application: Deadline to apply is Friday, April 7th. Send a cover letter and resume to Sam Schongalla, Columbia Land Trust Volunteer Coordinator, at volunteer@columbialandtrust.org.

About Columbia Land Trust: Since 1990, Columbia Land Trust has protected, in perpetuity, approximately 32,000 acres of lands along the lower 250 miles of the Columbia River. A majority of the protection has been accomplished with land ownership, with significant holdings as conservation easements or other conservation agreements, as well as transfer of land to public agencies. The Land Trust's service region includes 13 Oregon and Washington counties, extending from the Pacific Ocean on the west to beyond the eastern

edge of the Columbia Gorge Scenic Area, near the John Day River. The Land Trust has approximately 3,000 members in Oregon and Washington and has embarked on an ambitious plan to expand public participation in the conservation of the great lands of the Columbia River region. Columbia Land Trust's headquarters are located on the campus of beautiful Fort Vancouver, WA. More information about Columbia Land Trust can be found at www.columbialandtrust.org