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Veterans Conservation Corps
with
Grays Harbor Conservation District
Habitat Restoration Crew Internship

Program Overview

The Grays Harbor Conservation District is a non-regulatory local agency that works with landowners to help resolve their natural resource issues on their land. The mission of the Grays Harbor Conservation District is to provide technical and financial assistance for the conservation, protection, and development of natural resources within Grays Harbor County.

Schedule and Compensation

Location: Elma, WA with travel to sites in rural Grays Harbor County, and occasional travel to sites in Thurston and Lewis Counties

Compensation: \$3200/month for a full-time internship (40 hours/week) or \$1600/month for a part-time internship (20 hours/week) to assist with living expenses

Work Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7:00am-5:00pm – Hours are flexible

Duration: 1 year, with possibility of extension

Start Date: As soon as possible. Position will remain open until filled.

Position Summary

We are seeking a Veterans Conservation Corps (VCC) member to assist with the monitoring and restoration of rare prairie habitat across the Chehalis watershed (Thurston, Lewis, and Grays Harbor counties) in southwest Washington. The VCC member will work with a small crew to enhance wildlife habitat, remove invasive weeds, monitor plant/pollinator/bird communities, promote responsible grazing practices, and educate landowners about conservation programs. This position requires a sound work ethic, strong interpersonal skills, and a positive attitude during long field days. We are committed to providing a meaningful experience for the VCC member and will support any veteran-specific needs that are appropriate to each individual's capabilities and condition during enrollment in program. The majority of the time will be spent in Grays Harbor County while coordinating with other interns working in Thurston and Lewis Counties for consistency.

Responsibilities

The VCC member will serve with the Grays Harbor Conservation District and partnering agencies to carry out the following duties:

- Restore native prairie habitat through mowing, prescribed burning, invasive species removal (e.g., herbicide application, brush cutting, etc.), and native plant seeding
- Collect field data on plant, pollinator, and bird communities
- Support project implementation through field season preparation, literature reviews, and data entry/management
- Communicate with landowners about conservation grazing techniques and conservation programs
- Work with Grays Harbor Conservation District employees on other projects to gain experience and knowledge of other duties and opportunities conservation districts are involved with, to include:
 - Develop conservation grazing plans for enrolled sites
 - Learn more about best management practices in agriculture
 - Assist with development of fish passage projects and other habitat restoration projects
 - Assist with education and outreach efforts
 - Help with riparian planting along streams

Training Opportunities

All necessary training required to perform the essential functions/duties is provided on the job.

In addition to on-the-job training, this position may include the following formal trainings and certifications to aid in personal & professional development:

- NWCG Firefighter type II (Crew member) Certification
- Washington State Pesticide Applicators License
- Plant identification
- Habitat restoration and vegetation management techniques
- Chainsaw and brush cutting training
- Veteran Peer Support Training
- Posttraumatic Growth Training
- PTSD/TBI/Mental Health/ Suicide Awareness & Prevention
- Environmental conservation conferences/symposiums/workshops
- Other trainings/certifications as available and desired by intern

Requirements

- Must be a veteran of the United States Uniformed Services to be eligible for this position
- Must have reliable transportation to Elma office and field sites in rural areas
- Must be able to perform strenuous field work on uneven terrain in adverse weather conditions
- Interest in learning about native plants, grazing techniques, and conservation programs
- Must be able to follow oral and written directions

Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities

- Plant identification skills, including common weeds (or eagerness to learn)
- Basic computer skills (e.g., use of web browsers and commonly used software such as Microsoft Office)
- Attention to detail
- Experience working on a crew to complete time-sensitive projects
- Experience implementing safety practices in the field with and without supervision
- Experience operating hand tools and power tools
- Comfortable working with chemicals such as herbicides and fertilizers
- Able to lift up to 50-lbs
- Able to operate motor vehicles and haul a trailer
- Comfortable speaking to landowners and other members of the public about projects
- Motivated and enthusiastic to work and learn

Apply

All applicants must pass a background check.

To apply for this internship, **email a copy of your DD214 or service discharge certificate, a copy of your government-issued ID, a resume, and a cover letter** explaining your interest in this internship to:

Kim Pham
Veterans Conservation Corps Program Manager
kim@dva.wa.gov

Questions?

To learn more about the Veterans Conservation Corps, contact:

Kim Pham
Veterans Conservation Corps Program Manager
kim@dva.wa.gov
www.dva.wa.gov/vcc

For more information about Grays Harbor Conservation District, contact:

Nate Jackson
Farm & Forest Program Manager
njackson@graysharborcd.org
(360) 463-0919