Plas Newydd Farm Conservation Program: Restoration Internships near Ridgefield, WA

Timeline and Schedule: Three positions are available for full-time, 40-hour a week, Monday–Friday internship beginning July 1st or upon availability lasting for at least 6 but no more than 10 weeks. Extension is possible for recent graduates.

Background: Plas Newydd Farm is a beautiful 1,600 acre private working farm developing a conservation program to protect and restore 1,000 acres of floodplain habitats at the confluence of the Lewis and Columbia rivers near Ridgefield, in Clark County, Washington. To this end, we have a unique internship opportunity for up to three dynamic candidates to assist in collecting baseline field data and other tasks, including opportunities to learn and train among professional mentors and to participate in significant conservation and land management objectives. On-site housing can be provided if needed for the duration of the internship, shared with up to 2 other interns, includes views of the river and scenic landscapes.

Qualifications: Students currently pursuing a degree in Restoration, Environmental Sciences, Water Resource Engineering, or a related field such as Ecology, Field Biology, Botany, Fisheries, Wildlife, Hydrology, Geology or Geomorphology.

Potential duties and responsibilities: Under the direction of the Conservation Program Manager, Program Assistant or Farm Manager:

- Conduct environmental field investigations including stream assessments, habitat assessments, fish presence/absence surveys, and various hydrological investigations.
- Work on land survey tasks including instrument operation, brush clearing, driving stakes, and taking detailed notes.
- Enter collected data into appropriate databases and perform QA/QC on entered data.
- Analyzing, manipulating, and interpreting data, including statistics.
- Documentation of environmental investigation results, potentially including development of maps and figures.
- Pre-project monitoring data collection including photo points, inventory and monitoring species or habitats.
- Performing invasive plant removal, primarily through hand removal or mechanical/equipment methods, in both aquatic/stream and terrestrial landscapes.
- General support of Conservation Program including project permitting tasks, desktop research, filing, scanning and copying documents, preparing for site visits, maintaining supplies, and maintenance of equipment.
- Completing ad hoc assignments as needs arise.
- Implementing safety measures and using personal protective equipment as appropriate to achieve assigned tasks.

Additional requirements:

- Must be comfortable working outdoors with ability to perform physical work, in all weather conditions and on difficult terrain. Must have the ability to stand, walk, or sit for extended periods as well as lifting up to 40 pounds. Must be comfortable working around water, some work will be conducted from boats.
- Must be 18 years of age or older. Must have a valid driver's license with a clean driving record. WA or OR Boaters ID card is desired but not required.
- Have or obtain appropriate foot wear i.e. work boots, knee boots or waders. Other safety gear will be provided.
- Experience working with Microsoft Office Suite software.
- Enthusiasm for working in a rural environment.
- Applying creative thinking to solve challenges encountered in ecological restoration.
- Detail oriented and able to work independently with minimal supervision. Motivated, responsible, self-starter.
- Ability to communicate effectively orally and in written form and work with supervisor;
- Experience using or the ability to learn to use GPS equipment;
- Candidates must have a commitment to conservation, a strong work ethic and ability to work positively and productively with a small team.

Compensation: Candidates will receive minimum wage, and housing if needed. Pay is biweekly. Candidates are responsible for transport to the farm, food and personal expenses.

To Apply: Qualified and interested applicants should forward a cover letter, their resume, and a list of three professional or academic references to Kelley Jorgensen, Conservation Program Manager (kjorgensen@pnfarm.com). Upon receipt, a representative from the conservation program will contact you for the next steps in the application process. All questions related to the interview and selection process may be sent to Kelley.