



Stewardship Intern

McKenzie River Trust is a land trust based in Eugene that helps people protect and care for the lands and rivers they cherish in Western Oregon

Location: Eugene, Oregon, and surrounding area

Duration: 10 weeks, July 1st – September 6th

Hours: 10-20 hours per week (depending on intern schedule, and business demands)

Compensation: \$16.50/hour (sick time is the only benefit included for the internship position)

Position Description: The stewardship intern will work with conservation staff to support habitat restoration on McKenzie River Trust-owned properties. The intern will build skills related to conservation fieldwork practices, floodplain restoration techniques, and monitoring. They will also increase their understanding of land trust operations and be offered opportunities for educational goal-setting and community engagement. Through this position, the intern will be encouraged to explore their own educational and professional goals as they align with McKenzie River Trust's projects and needs.

Stewardship Intern activities will include:

Land Stewardship, Restoration, and Management (85% of time)

This position is primarily field-based at several of McKenzie River Trust's protected properties. Time will be split between properties at the approximate rates: 30% at Green Island (Coburg, OR), 30% at the Willamette Confluence Property (Eugene, OR), and 40% between Finn Rock Reach (near Blue River, OR), Waite Ranch (near Florence, OR), as well as at several other smaller properties. Tasks performed will include:

- Monitoring for invasive species
- Managing invasive plants
 - Identifying and flagging non-native plant species
 - Completing manual, mechanical, and chemical invasive species removal
 - Learning about different control methods including manual, mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls
- Maintaining and monitoring native plantings
 - Clearing undergrowth
 - Assisting with irrigation for native trees and shrubs
- Assisting with riparian/stream habitat assessments
- Utilizing geospatial tools
- Working with volunteers, partners, and MRT staff to accomplish group workday tasks
- Assisting with various activities to support MRT's Living River Exploration Days that happen monthly on the second Saturday at Green Island

- Other opportunities as assigned

Capstone Project (10% of time)

- In collaboration and with support of McKenzie River Trust staff, develop and implement a project of your choosing to help further your educational goals and grow your personal resume. The project can include research, mapping, presentations, etc.

Monitoring (5% of time)

- Monitoring and reporting previous restoration planting; fee-title property monitoring

Knowledge, skills, and abilities required:

- Interest in floodplain restoration, ecology, botany, and related fields
- Interest in public access to conservation lands and other protected areas
- Ability to work independently and be self-directed
- Ability to identify and distinguish among common native and non-native plants in the field
- Comfort working in adverse weather conditions (dry, hot, inclement weather)
- Ability to lift 50 pounds
- Must be comfortable standing, walking, bending over, and moving through rough terrain for extended periods of time
- Must have a valid driver's license
- Must have access to a reliable vehicle and be willing to drive to project sites

We ask that all intern applicants answer the following questions in lieu of a cover letter. Once complete, the questions should be returned to McKenzie River Trust via email, along with a copy of your resume. To be considered for this position, please email all application materials to jobs@mckenzie-river.org with "Summer Internship" in the subject line of your email. All materials are due by Friday, April 12th 2024, not later than 5pm.

Please copy and paste the questions below into a document, and return both the questions and your responses as a PDF. Each question should be answered in no more than 250 words.

1. What has interested you in this internship position? Is there an aspect of our mission that motivates you to want to intern with us?
2. What existing skills are you hoping to utilize as part of the internship?
3. What are your educational, personal, and professional goals when looking for an internship experience?