



## **SHELL CONSERVATION INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

The Shell Conservation Internship Program is a partnership initiative between the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC) and Shell Canada Limited to provide university/college students with practical experience in the conservation field. Launched in 2002, the Shell Conservation Internship Program will, in 2010, engage students from across Canada in stewardship and management work on NCC properties, and in other career-related activities that advance the work of NCC. This partnership builds on the successful history of Shell Canada and NCC working together to conserve many of our country's most important natural places.

### **REGION: BRITISH COLUMBIA**

### **POSITION TITLE: Invasive Species Inventory and Mapping Intern**

### **NO. OF POSITIONS: 1**

The Nature Conservancy of Canada protects critical natural areas of ecological importance in British Columbia. NCC BC is responsible for the stewardship of over 182,500 acres of habitat, including 23 conservation covenants. Interns play an integral role in stewarding these properties by assisting BC staff with stewardship activities which include ecological and covenant monitoring, baseline report preparation, mapping of biological communities and threats, and preparing and implementing property management plans and stewardship statements.

The Invasive Species Inventory and Mapping Intern will conduct invasive species inventories and mapping on various NCC projects throughout the province. The individual will use a Trimble GPS unit to map invasive species occurrences in the field and collect other relevant data in order to complete the inventories. They will also be responsible for uploading invasive species data into the provincial Invasive Alien Plant Program Application. The intern will work closely with NCC stewardship and GIS staff members as well as with fellow interns in order to accomplish their work. The intern will be mostly involved in monitoring and inventory activities in the Central Interior and Canadian Rocky Mountains regions of BC. Travel and fieldwork will require liaising closely with a variety of NCC staff.

### **Specific Responsibilities**

1. Assist BC staff in order to complete invasive species inventories on various NCC Projects, which may require the individual to perform the following:
  - Undertake fieldwork, GPS mapping, and photo monitoring;
  - Collect, analyze and maintain field data for invasive species inventories on NCC properties, including field based mapping;
  - Review project background materials, and conducting research to complete and inform reports;
  - Liaise with NCC's Director of Stewardship, Canadian Rocky Mountains Program Manager, Okanagan Program Manager and Tatlayoko Project Manager as well as other contractors and staff as required;

- Correspond and work collaboratively with landowners, stakeholders, partner groups, volunteers, BC Regional Staff, the Director of Land Stewardship and other parties as required;
  - Submit invasive species inventory reports and supporting documentation in the format requested;
  - Enter invasive species data into the provincial Invasive Alien Plant Program Application as requested; and
  - Abide by the guidelines set out in the Field Health and Safety Manual.
2. Participate in the Shell Conservation Internship Program activities as directed by the Lead Stewardship Intern:
- Prepare materials and participate in a conference for the Shell Conservation Internship Program;
  - Submit photographs and stories as requested by the Lead Stewardship Intern or other NCC staff in a timely manner; and
  - Prepare a final report discussing your experience as a Shell Conservation Intern.

### **Skills and Abilities**

This posting is targeted to students possessing the following skills:

- Ability to work as part of a team
- Able to follow directions, including protocols and field methods;
- Good time management skills, attention to detail;
- Comfortable making own travel arrangements and traveling for extended periods;
- Able to work independently in the field;
- Ability to identify the majority of invasive species in B.C.
- Demonstrate strong interpersonal and communication skills;
- Experience with botany (plant identification), geomorphology (terrain analysis), hydrology, wildlife identification, cartography, airphoto interpretation, and surveying;
- Knowledge of plants, plant communities, ecological processes and associated biodiversity of the BC's biogeoclimatic zones;
- Familiarity with B.E.C. system, T.E.M. mapping, Describing Ecosystems in the Field, site interpretation, photopoint monitoring and GPS mapping;
- Intermediate GIS mapping skills using an ArcGIS platform;
- Strong computer skills associated with database management, and report writing, including familiarity with Adobe Creative Suite;
- Backcountry travel skills;
- Valid Class 5 Driver's Licence; and

### **Terms of Employment**

- This is a full-time 16 week (May 3rd to August 20, 2010) position. Salary is \$18/hour (\$630/week).
- This position is based in Victoria, but requires the ability to travel throughout the Central Interior, Canadian Rockies, and Coastal BC. Extended overnight stays may be required. The selected individual should be prepared to travel throughout BC using his/her personal vehicle. Travel expenses will be reimbursed.

## **Applications**

Interested applicants should attach their cover letter and resume (as word documents) and e-mail them to:

Director of Land Stewardship

BC Region

E-mail: [bcstewardship@natureconservancy.ca](mailto:bcstewardship@natureconservancy.ca)

Reference position title "**Invasive Species Inventory and Mapping Intern**" in e-mail subject line

**Closing Date: March 31st, 2010**

NCC is a non-profit, non-advocacy organization that takes a business-like approach to preserving Canada's natural heritage. Our focus is on conservation through private action, and we have a strong track record of partnering with individuals, corporations, community groups, conservation groups and government bodies to create win-win solutions that benefit nature.