



**Veterans Conservation Corps**

*with the*

**Confederated Tribes**

**of the**

**Chehalis Reservation**

**Department of Natural Resources**

Environmental Restoration Internship

**Program Overview**

The Chehalis Tribe’s Department of Natural Resources is located on the reservation near Oakville. The Department of Natural Resource’s mission statementis: *Effectively manage the physical and cultural qualities of the air, water, earth, plants and wildlife, both on and off reservation, for the people of the Chehalis Tribes.* Field work activities will include planting and providing maintenance to native trees and shrubs, controlling or removing invasive vegetation, fence barrier removal, and participating in other habitat improvement projects.

**Position Summary**

The candidate will:

**Maintain Planting Sites:**

* Intern will help maintain existing planting sites. This is done by safely utilizing tools such as brush-cutters and mowers and also includes manual watering.

**Plant Native Trees and Shrubs:**

* Intern will help plant both bare root plants and stakes in the riparian zone utilizing shovels, planting bars and sand-filled-hammers.

**Invasive Weed Control:**

* Intern will work to safely control invasive weeds by mechanical means (utilizing a brush cutter). Control will also include treating various weeds by applying herbicides utilizing a backpack sprayer.

**Other Duties:**

On an occasional basis the intern may have the opportunity to:

* Assist other District staff as needed, i.e. water data collection, fish trap data collection
* Operate watercraft used to access select work sites
* Collecting environmental field data
* Remove wildlife/livestock exclusion fencing
* Practice proper tool maintenance
* Other duties may be assigned

**Physical Requirements**

* Able to perform physically demanding manual labor outdoors on difficult and hazardous terrain in all types of weather.
* Capable of lifting 50 lbs., walking 3 miles daily over uneven terrain, and operating a brush cutter for 6-8 hours a day.
* Able to safely operate hand and power tools such as brush cutters water pumps, chainsaws, power auger, small tractors, planting bars, and pruners.
* Capable of bending, squatting, kneeling, lifting overhead, and other repetitive movements.

**Schedule and Compensation**

This is a 6-month internship that includes a VCC stipend of $1800/month for a full-time internship (~40 hours/week) to help cover living expenses. A typical work week will be five 8-hour days from Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Position open until filled.

**Requirements**

* Must be a veteran of the United States Uniformed Services to be eligible for this position
* Must have dependable transportation to and from the Chehalis Tribe DNR office on the Chehalis Tribe Reservation. [The address is *26 Niederman Rd, Oakville, WA, 98568*.]
* Must be able to work Monday-Friday.

**Preferred Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

This is considered an entry level position and no experience is required. Applicants with the following skills, knowledge, and abilities will be given preference:

* Currently possess or be able to obtain a valid driver’s license
* Experience implementing safety practices in the field with and without supervision
* Able to work outside in inclement weather conditions
* Able to take direction and work as a member of a team
* Motivated and enthusiastic
* Excellent attention to detail
* Basic computer skills and data entry skills (Microsoft Word and Excel)

**Training**

*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:

* Veterans Cultural Competency Training
* Posttraumatic Growth Training
* PTSD/TBI/Mental Health/ Suicide Awareness & Prevention
* WDVA Veteran Peer Corps Certification
* VCC Annual Training (every August)
* Environmental conservation conferences/symposiums/workshops
* Growing your veteran-owned small business
* Whole Farm Planning and Agricultural Entrepreneurship
* Other trainings/certifications as available and desired by intern

**Additional Requirements**

* Successfully pass pre-employment Drug Screen
* Be able to safely operate a motor vehicle and possess a valid Washington State Driver’s License.
* Successfully pass a Criminal Background Check. The following may disqualify an applicant from consideration or continued program participation:
  + Any felony conviction
  + Any domestic violence violations, convictions or restraints
  + Any violations, convictions or restraints for actions made against children or vulnerable adults
  + Any false or untrue statements or material omissions in the application and related paperwork or during the selection process

**Apply**

To apply, email **a resume, a copy of your DD214 or service discharge certificate, a copy of your current driver’s license, 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

For more information about Chehalis Tribe Department of Natural Resources, contact:

Ben Amidon

Restoration Coordinator

bamidon@chehlistribe.org

(360) 951-5447

https://www.chehalistribe.org/departments/department-of-natural-resources/