

GRADUATE STUDENT INTERNSHIP / CO-OP PROJECT FORM

PROJECT	TITLE:	Stewardship Practices for Species at Risk Implementation and Assessment Project		
	LOCATION:	North Vancouver, BC/ Province of BC		
	TERM:	Summer	FROM: May 1, 2017	TO: August 31, 2017
PROJECT SPONSOR	NAME:	DG Blair	TITLE: Executive Director	
	ORGANIZATION:	Stewardship Centre for BC	BRANCH / SECTION:	
	ADDRESS:	1244 Burnage Rd; North Vancouver, BC V7R 1G7		
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TOPIC OR RESEARCH QUESTION: (Briefly describe the research question being addressed through this project)	<p>What stewardship practices (SPs) for species at risk are being implemented by selected agricultural producers for riparian areas and watercourses?</p> <p>How effective are the riparian area and agricultural waterways stewardship practices for wildlife and species at risk within the agricultural sector?</p> <p>What recommendations can be made to better engage with private landowners to implement stewardship practices?</p>			
KEYWORDS: (List key words to describe the field of study and project)	<p>Stewardship</p> <p>Species at Risk</p> <p>Land Use Best Practices</p> <p>Riparian Areas/ Watercourses</p>			
PROJECT DESCRIPTION & RELEVANCE: (Provide an overview of the context for the internship and why it is important. Describe the project, its tangible, intended outcomes and the role of the student.)	<p>Overview:</p> <p>The project is the final year in the Stewardship Centre’s Stewardship Practices for Species at Risk Implementation and Assessment Project. The project aims to: foster partnerships between local government agricultural producers, and ENGOs who have a long-term stake in stewarding the local land base; develop stewardship community champions; address science gaps related to the effectiveness of the different riparian area and agricultural waterways stewardship practices; and to encourage people to take voluntary stewardship actions to safeguard the natural areas species at risk need to live through providing tested and community-supported Stewardship Practices guidelines.</p> <p>This project will address threats to species at risk caused by agricultural intensification and land-use practices in settled landscapes in the Lower Mainland/Fraser Valley, the Kootenays, Vancouver Island and the South Okanagan. Using a multi-species approach through the use of previously developed voluntary Stewardship Practices guides (see www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/guides) the project will build on the partnerships established between the conservation community, local government and the Stewardship Centre of BC in 2014- 2016 to demonstrate how stewardship practices (SPs) can address common threats to species at risk (e.g., ditch maintenance and riparian habitat loss) while meeting the business needs of agricultural producers. See http://www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/stewardship-practices-for-species-at-risk-gallery/</p>			
Funding Requested from BRITE 6,000	<p>The BRITE intern and Stewardship Centre of BC will work with conservation and agricultural partners to select, plan, and document (case studies) large scale, multi-species critical habitat</p>			

recovery projects that are implementing stewardship practices for species at risk. A key tool is the development of community champion “success stories” where producers tell their peers how they have benefited from implementing SPs on their land (a Community Based Social Marketing best practice). This multi-partner project will present their collective findings in a way that supports landowners considering SP implementation by aligning recommended actions that benefit species with agricultural business realities and ensure land use decisions will aid in recovery efforts.

These activities will engage Canadians (landowners, agricultural producers, conservation organizations, local governments, students and volunteers) to participate directly in activities that support the recovery of species at risk.

Project Details:

The project will:

- Identify potential agricultural producer partners and collaborators
- Demonstrate habitat improvement and human impact mitigation in partnership with agricultural producers at 6 sites
- Working with partners, identify possible demonstration sites for the following Stewardship Practices (as applicable):
 - *Establish or restore riparian buffers*
 - *Stabilize Banks using Bioengineering Methods*
 - *Use Sensitive Methods to Work In-Stream*
 - *Restore Aquatic Habitats*
 - *Avoid Over-application or Poor Storage of Manure*
 - *Augment Riparian Areas with Agroforestry or Leave Strips*
 - *Create Riparian Wetlands*
 - *Monitor and Evaluate Projects*
- Create new case studies including pre construction, during habitat improvement and monitoring results and update previous (2014-2016 case studies as needed)
- Add to the gallery of case studies of Stewardship Practices on the SAR Primer website with links to the partner websites
- Complete participant (2014-2017) surveys (approximately 60 surveys) to assess effectiveness of the riparian area and agricultural waterways stewardship practices for wildlife and species at risk
- Make recommendations for improved engagement with private landowners to implement stewardship practices

The student will be working directly under the supervision of the Stewardship Centre of BC Executive Director, DG Blair, M.Sc. She/he will work closely with Ms. Blair on a daily basis for approximately 16 weeks. The student will also work remotely – communicating regularly with Ms. Blair. This position has flexible timing– depending on final funding levels and the student’s schedule. The student will be expected to research, conduct field visits, write and analyze case studies for six Stewardship Practices demonstration sites as well as update previous case studies. This work will involve landowner contact, collaborative work with partner organizations, background research, photo-documentation, and development of website content. As well, the student will survey current and past participants to create a final report with recommendations for future work.

The intended long-term outcomes include:

- Important habitat for species at risk recovery is improved (restored/enhanced) and/or managed to meet their recovery needs.
- Threats to individual species at risk, and/or their habitat, caused by human activities are stopped, removed and/or mitigated.
- Project benefits are sustained over time by engaging Canadians (landowners, resource users, volunteers) to participate directly in activities that support the recovery of species

at risk.

AMOUNT: \$14,400 plus expenses
 In addition to BRITE funding, the Stewardship Centre for BC has confirmed funding for travel to field sites (\$2,000); confirmed human resources funding of \$2,200 with a further \$6,200 funding pending for this position (Canada Summer Jobs) to complete additional survey and analysis work.

AVAILABLE FUNDING:	<input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES (confirmed and pending)	IF YES, THEN LIST AMOUNT:	\$2,000 expenses confirmed \$2,200 HR confirmed \$6,200 application pending
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PROJECT TYPE (Check the relevant type(s) of work to be undertaken for this internship / co-op project)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	FIELD WORK	<input type="checkbox"/>	GIS ANALYSIS (potentially if the student has the skills and interest)
<input type="checkbox"/>	RESEARCH PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	POLICY ANALYSIS
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	LITERATURE REVIEW	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SURVEY DESIGN
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHORT STUDY / ASSESSMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	MODEL DEVELOPMENT (research prioritization framework)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATA COLLECTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	OTHER please describe: Educational Materials
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DATA / STATISTICAL ANALYSIS		

EXPECTED DELIVERABLES:
 (Summarize the intended project deliverables, e.g., research report, data analyzed, and presented in a spreadsheet format, etc.)

- Six case studies on Stewardship Practices for species at risk
- Website content on the Species at Risk Primer – <http://www.stewardshipcentrebc.ca/stewardship-practices-for-species-at-risk-gallery/>
- Survey and data analysis
- Research Report

SKILLS NEEDED, SUPPORT AVAILABLE:
 (Summarize the key skills/capabilities needed, and the training or support available for technical components of the project)

Skills/Capabilities needed for this position include:

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills (landowner contact, research and writing case studies)
- An understanding of agricultural practices, species at risk, and habitat values in BC
- Interviewing, coding and analysing social data including quantitative and qualitative skills for socio-ecological research
- Survey and analysis skills
- Report writing

Technical support is available for all aspects of the project.