



September 2019- August 2020 Service Year POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title

BattenKill Habitat Steward/Coordinator

Sponsoring Organization

Cooperative Invasive Species Management Association for the BattenKill
Bennington, VT

Sponsoring Organization's Mission

CISMA-BKW was created as a collaboration between land owners and land managers with a mission to manage and raise awareness about invasive plant species in the Batten Kill Watershed. Collaborative partners include Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD), Vermont Land Trust (VLT), Equinox Preservation Trust (EPT), VT Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service (Green Mtn NF), Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC), BattenKill Watershed Alliance, Calfee Woodland Management, and Hildene.

Goals for the ECO AmeriCorps Position

(1) Treat/manage invasive species in riparian and forested ecosystems to improve water quality and for wildlife habitat improvement. (2) Further develop and improve community outreach in the watershed for the CISMA-BKW. (3) Continue to develop and expand the Early Detection/ Rapid Response (ED/RR) program and enhance current available material on that subject. (4) Develop personal professional network and maintain professional communication with involved parties. (5) Advise private landowners, municipalities, and civic organizations on best management practices for terrestrial invasive species.

Essential Functions. Functions that the applicant must be able to perform

Serve efficiently independently or with little supervision
Skills and experience in identifying native and nonnative plants in Vermont
Ability to traverse uneven terrain, including crossing rivers, under a variety of weather conditions
Ability to lift and carry 30 pounds
Self-starter
Excellent skills serving with people including the ability to secure and coordinate volunteers
Strong communication skills, written and oral
Valid driver's license
Regular access to a reliable vehicle
Access to a cell phone
Experience in using Microsoft Word, Excel and Access

Experience using a GPS unit and in-field mapping

Ability to secure pesticide applicator certification in Category 2, Forest Pests (after commencement of service)

Marginal Functions. These are secondary to Essential Functions, may be negotiable, and can be completed as time allows.

Some experience with trail maintenance and use of a wide variety of hand tools

Attend relevant conferences and workshops.

Projects May Include

The CISMA-BKW was established in 2015 to cooperatively prevent the spread of invasive species within the watershed. The Habitat Steward/Coordinator will continue to implement and develop an early detection/rapid response program, advise landowners and land managers within the watershed on best management practices for forest and riparian invasive plant species, implement treatments and management practices, and develop programs to promote public awareness of invasive species.

Desired Qualifications

Ability to serve as part of a team; confidence in communicating with others; willingness to learn new skills; BA or BS in a botanical, ecological, environmental, or biological field. GIS-related coursework is beneficial

Networking Opportunities

Our organization is a collaboration of multiple landowners and land managers within the BattenKill watershed, including: Collaborative partners include: Bennington County Conservation District (BCCD), Vermont Land Trust (VLT), Equinox Preservation Trust (EPT), VT Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service (Green Mtn NF), Bennington County Regional Commission (BCRC), BattenKill Watershed Alliance, Calfee Woodland Management, and Hildene. Our service member communicates with each CISMA partner and facilitates the monthly meetings of the CISMA committee, in addition to assisting with projects for many.

Additionally we have sent our past two service members to a regional invasive species management conference in Ithaca, NY for each of the past two years.

Our current habitat steward is collaborating on a project with the Vermont Land Trust to create a report outlining the best practices for creating a successful CISMA. This project involves outreach (e-mail, phone conversations, face-to-face meetings) with members of other CISMA/PRISM organizations around the Northeast.

Service Conditions

Service tasks are a mix of indoor/outdoor in the fall, majority indoors (planning projects, training, public outreach activities) in winter (late Nov-early April), primarily outdoors in spring and summer (surveying and monitoring for invasive plants, implementing projects developed during the fall/winter). Occasional Saturdays (workshops).

Minimum Qualifications:

- Be a US citizen, a national, or legal permanent resident alien of the U.S.;
- Be at least 18 years of age upon entering the Pre-Service Orientation (there is no upper age limit);
- Be a high school graduate or have a GED certificate, or be willing to work towards their GED as part of their service-year successful completion requirement. A member cannot have dropped out of high school to join AmeriCorps. If a member has a documented medical reason/professional opinion why they cannot finish high school, they might be eligible; call in this case;

- Has not been convicted of murder or sexual assault and is willing to undergo a National Service Criminal History Check;
- Must submit to Agency of Human Services checks, i.e. Adult Abuse and Child Abuse Prevention;
- Be committed to the ECO AmeriCorps program, and its ethic of service and personal and professional development of its participants;
- Have the ability and enthusiasm to drive to, attend, and participate in required trainings and events, and be prepared to drive up to 2-3 hours each way.