Background
The North Santiam Watershed Council (NSWC) is a locally driven, non-governmental, non-regulatory community-based nonprofit that facilitates stewardship and restoration projects to improve water health, and develops partnerships to plan, fund, and implement those projects.

In 2020, the North Santiam Watershed was hit by the Beachie Creek & Lionshead wildfires. The wildfires had a great impact on both our community and our environment, resulting in half of the watershed being burned. In response to this tragedy, the North Santiam Watershed Council shifted its focus to working together to implement post-fire recovery efforts and assist in the rebuilding of our communities.

Getting ahead of invasive weed problems before they get out of control is an important part of protecting the vulnerable native plant communities that are still recovering from the 2020 North Santiam Watershed wildfires. There is a very high risk to native plant communities and wildlife habitats from new invasive plants and/or the spread of established local weed populations introduced by fire suppression, salvage logging, and rebuilding activities.

Primary Duties & Responsibilities
- Conduct public outreach to landowners living in the hardest-hit areas of the Beachie Creek and Lionshead Fire perimeters.
- Assist Watershed Restoration Specialist in obtaining Cooperative Landowner Agreements between landowners and the watershed council outlining the roles and responsibilities of each party.
- Conduct Early Detection, Rapid Response (EDRR) surveys on public & private property for 8 invasive plant species including False Brome, Spotted, Meadow & Diffuse Knapweed, Italian Thistle, Garlic Mustard, Knotweeds, and Yellow Archangel.
• Collect presence/absence data and document the following: location, infestation size, percent cover, and any special notes will be collected using iMap Invasives. Other invasive species of concern will also be documented.
• Collect pre- and post-photo points of restoration/survey sites.
• Work to educate the public about the impacts of aquatic invasive plants to help stop the spread.
• Participate in meetings, trainings, and peer-to-peer learning events as appropriate.

Qualifications:
• Ability to collect high-quality, detailed, accurate data.
• Strong interest in working with plants, natural resources, and/or environmental science.
• Ability to work independently or as part of a team, manage time, and prioritize tasks.
• Position requires sitting, typing, standing, and carrying up to 40 pounds. Comfort in conducting fieldwork independently, often in remote areas, including walking over uneven terrain and on steep slopes, and working in inclement weather. Travel on gravel roads is expected.
• Valid Oregon driver’s license and reliable personal transportation (work-related travel reimbursed).
• Willingness to have a flexible work schedule.

Key Attributes of a Successful Candidate:
• Ability to identify plants using a botanical key, distinguish invasive plants from native plants, and willingness to learn plant identification skills.
• Passionate about watershed restoration, community engagement, and education.
• Interpersonal skills, including a personal commitment and demonstrated ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds and with diverse perspectives in an equitable and inclusive fashion.
• Familiarity with GPS and iPads
• Excellent organizational and communication skills.

To Apply
Please submit a cover letter, resume, and three references via email to WRS.NSWC@gmail.com. In your cover letter, please describe lived and professional experience in natural resource conservation and management. All emails - both application submittals and questions regarding the position - should have: “Summer Internship - Applicants Last Name” in the subject line. Incomplete applications will not be accepted.