Community Profile

Population 144,640
Location Eugene

Position Description

Sponsor McKenzie River Trust
Supervisor Joe Moll, Executive Director

Assignment The RARE participant will work as the Stewardship Coordinator for the McKenzie River Trust (MRT). Working closely with MRT’s Conservation Director, the participant will help to maintain strong working relations with project landowners, monitor activity on the lands, and identify areas where restoration work is necessary. The participant will organize volunteer restoration projects, visit project sites, and organize projects for future maintenance and restoration. In addition, the participant will be involved with GIS mapping and monitoring of project properties.

Required Skills The successful RARE participant will be self-motivated, an independent worker, and comfortable learning on the fly. The participant should have some working knowledge of GIS, database management, land use and management practices, and habitat conservation issues in western Oregon. Familiarity with native and non-native flora and fauna would also be important.

RARE Member

Jessica Neff graduated from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, with a BA in Sociology. After graduation she worked in Nicaragua as a volunteer in the Peace Corps, working in sustainable agriculture. After finishing her service in 2002, she worked in Seattle, Washington, for her family’s business, SoilSoup, an organic soil amendment company. After working on a farm in Tuscany, Italy and traveling throughout Spain and Turkey, Jess returned to the Northwest to begin graduate school in the Community and Regional Planning Program at the University of Oregon. Having completed one year of her master’s program, Jess plans to finish her degree after her tenure in RARE. Her interests lie in environmental planning, especially green building and sustainable development, with an international focus.