

Volunteer Position Description

The Nature Conservancy preserves plants, animals and natural communities representing the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive.

Position Title:	Weed Watcher Volunteer
Locations:	We have open positions at 5 preserves: Camassia and Sandy River Gorge (Portland Area) Tom McCall (Hood River) Agate Desert and Lower Table Rocks (Medford).
Dates:	April 2007 to April 2008
Report to:	Tania Siemens, Invasive Species Project Coordinator Jason Dumont, Portland Area Preserves Outreach and Volunteer Coordinator Molly Sullivan, SW OR Stewardship Coordinator

Purpose: Invasive species pose the greatest threat to the intact habitats and sensitive species of The Nature Conservancy's Oregon preserves. Weed watcher volunteers will play an important role in our efforts to reduce the negative impacts of invasive plants by utilizing Early Detection and Rapid Response management strategies. Detecting and responding to new populations of invasive plants is much more efficient and has less of an impact than pulling or spraying large, established, populations. Volunteers will survey for new invasive plant occurrences on one or more Conservancy preserves of their choice 3 to 5 times per year and will serve as our first line of defense against the negative impacts of invasive plants.

Duties:

- Survey, document and report new invasive plant infestations in an assigned section of one or more Conservancy preserves.
- Attend 1-day orientation and training in spring 2007.
- Learn to identify 10-15 target invasive plants.
- Visit your preserve 3-5 times per year. At least one visit should be in the winter.
- Prevent additional plant spread by cleaning boots and equipment between visits.

Requirements:

- 1) Ability to hike 1-3 miles in varying weather conditions and uneven terrain.
- 2) Ability to work independently with little supervision.
- 3) Ability or willingness to learn to identify 10 to 15 target invasive plants.
- 4) Willingness to volunteer for the time commitment listed below.
- 5) Willingness to commit to the mission of The Nature Conservancy.

Length of appointment: One year or longer.

Time commitment: One training day and at least 3 preserve visits.

Support provided: One day of training with preserve stewards and a detailed resource manual. This position will be supervised by the local Stewardship Coordinators.

Benefits: Gain knowledge of the ecology and management of invasive plants while you help prevent their establishment and spread. This is an opportunity to help conserve biodiversity by being outdoors and hiking in nature!

Contact: Molly Dougherty, Director of Volunteer Programs, The Nature Conservancy in Oregon, 821 SE 14th Avenue, Portland, Oregon, 97214: (503) 802-8100 or mdougherty@tnc.org.