



TLC The Land Conservancy

VOLUNTEER ROLE

TITLE: COVENANT MONITORING TECHNICIAN

The volunteer Covenant Monitoring Technician will help TLC staff with ecosystem inventory and property monitoring on lands protected by a conservation covenant. Conservation covenants are use restrictions that landowners place on their properties through agreements with TLC, to protect natural areas. A conservation covenant might prevent activities such as cutting trees, draining the land, or subdivision. When a covenant is registered, TLC conducts a baseline inventory of the ecosystems and features of the property. We then conduct an annual monitoring visit to compare to the baseline.

This is a field work position involving work outdoors, potentially in remote locations throughout the Vancouver Island Region. We'll be scrambling over logs, fighting through salal, keying out mosses, and searching for property boundaries. The volunteer could also assist with report preparation and gathering background ecological information on the properties. Training will be provided as necessary.

OBJECTIVE

- To assist in conducting monitoring visits on TLC's covenanted properties in the Vancouver Island Region

SPECIFIC TASKS

- Assist TLC staff to conduct monitoring visits, including:
 - meeting with the landowner to go over the Monitoring Visit Form
 - inspecting the property, which may include walking the property boundaries, finding survey pins, taking photos at recorded bearings and locations
 - documenting any violations, threats, or observations
 - completing the Monitoring Visit Field Form

Other related duties (depending on interest, experience, and time):

- Preparing Covenant Monitoring Reports
- Follow-up with the landowner to provide information requested during the site visit, eg. information on native plants
- Gathering background information such as aerial photos and maps

EXPECTATIONS

- Participate in training session to learn objectives and procedure
- Have own transportation to meet TLC staff at scheduled time and location for visits. Be prepared with appropriate footwear/clothing/raingear and daypack.

- Treat landowners and their properties with respect and a focus on building and maintaining positive relationships
- Work safely with equipment and terrain, and follow TLC's Health and Safety Policy at all times
- Bringing own compass, clinometers, GPS or other equipment encouraged but not necessary
- Be flexible, have fun!

SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Excellent physical condition / able to hike off trail and for significant periods of time
- GPS / Compass knowledge is an asset but not required
- Plant identification skills, familiarity with BC plant communities and ecosystem processes beneficial
- Ability to identify natural features and disturbances to natural areas beneficial
- Map and Aerial Photograph interpretation beneficial
- Comfortable working with staff members & volunteers, and interacting with landowners, communication training will be provided
- First Aid is an asset but not required

GIFT OF TIME

- Ideally 6 hours / week, flexible timing (1 or 2 days per week)
- Property visits vary depending on the size of property, previous visits, and landowner compliance, and can take from 45 minutes to a full day, as well as completing report

TRAINING

- A comprehensive training session including outdoor training will be provided outlining monitoring procedures
- Training on covenants and how to respond to landowner's inquiries
- Additional training may be arranged if needed.

BENEFITS

- Gain field experience and familiarity with coastal BC ecosystems
- Learn skills in orienteering, plant and wildlife identification, wildlife identification, surveying, landowner contact, and the fundamentals of conservation covenants.
- Have an important role in ensuring the protection of ecologically significant landscapes in our area.
- Get to know TLC staff and other volunteers.
- Appreciation through TLC's recognition program.