

Summer 2024 Internship Opportunity

Title

Sandown Coastal Douglas Fir Forest: Mapping and Restoration Plan Development

Organization

Sandown Centre for Regenerative Agriculture



The Sustainability Scholar will be responsible for mapping the forest into zones, to identify areas of high, medium and low priority for restoration, as well as key native species and a general sense of the forest ecology. They will then develop a list of short- and medium-term actions for the high priority areas and develop an actionable restoration plan for one high priority zone. Additional restoration plans for subsequent zones can also be developed, time permitting.

The student will work closely with the SORA management team and will be supported in an outreach and consultation process with members of the the stewardship work of groups like PEPÁ E HÁUT and the Sí, EM ivy project on the Jm family land.

Project Description

This project will inform the long-term management of a second-growth coastal Douglas fir forest that has suffered from decades of neglect and the encroachment of invasive species. English ivy presents one of the gravest challenges to the health of the forest; it is widespread and well-established across much of the forest and will require a well-defined management plan and volunteer program to be dealt with effectively.

The Sustainability Scholar will be responsible for mapping the forest, creating management zones, and developing a list of short- and medium-term actions for the high priority areas. The forest is immensely diverse and some parts do not need much active work - the higher areas are dominated by Douglas fir while the low-lying areas are a western red-cedar and skunk cabbage swamp with a great diversity of plants like salmonberry, oceanspray, skunk cabbage, and horsetail scattered throughout. There are also many deciduous trees like cottonwood, red alder, and bigleaf maple throughout the forest.

hours from May to August 2024 and will strive to include collaboration and consultation with local members of the the SORA that our restoration process is informed by \hat{S} , EM) practices, is culturally sensitive, ecologically sound, and achievable.

Project Scope

The Sustainability Scholar will be responsible for laying the groundwork for a comprehensive forest management plan for 17-acres of diverse second growth coastal Douglas fir forest. This work will include on-the-ground mapping, research, and the creation of deliverables to be shared with the organization. The work will help to determine the best ways to manage the forest as well as focusing on Indigenous consultation to ensure that all work is culturally sensitive and relevant to the interests of the local First Nations.

Scope of Work:



- Conduct an inventory mapping of the forest and delineate zones based on vegetation composition and site characteristics. The level of detail required will be determined based on the experience of the Scholar.
- Categorize zones into high, medium and low priority areas for focussed restoration.
- Research and set short- and medium-term actions for each high priority zone.
- Develop a detailed restoration plan for one high priority zone, , including suggestions for ivy removal and the selection of Indigenous species for replanting.
- Analyze historical data and consult with regional experts to determine optimal timelines for achieving restoration goals.
- Consult with local First Nations to ensure their cultural and practical considerations are

and Executive Director.

The exact requirements will be finalized with the Scholar at the beginning of the project.

Deliverables

- Map of the forest into zones, including high, medium and low priority areas for restoration. Mapping should include tree canopy, species of note, predominant native and invasive species, and any key identifying features, such as waterways. The student will work with the Stewardship Manager at the beginning of their placement to allow for student input, and further define the scope of the map.
- 2. List of short- and long-term actions associated with the restoration of each zone. This work will provide recommendations and the research will inform the development of a detailed restoration plan for one zone.
- 3. Detailed restoration plan for one high-priority zone, chosen by the student.

Time Commitment

This project will take place between May 1 and August 15th. Field work will start immediately and progress will be monitored regularly by the SORA Stewardship Manager. Consultations will also occur towards the beginning of the project. A draft map should be completed within the first month of the project, to inform restoration research, and the final month will mainly focus on finalizing the specific restoration plan.

Required/Preferred Skills and Background

Excellent research and writing skills Demonstrated interest in sustainability



UVic Sustainability Scholars Program

All current UVic graduate students are invited to apply for an impactful sustainability research project. Sustainability Scholars Program internships are designed and mentored by partner organizations and paid at a rate of \$30.87 per hour (after deductions) for 250 hours from May 1 to Aug 15. Explore details on our website and review eligibility criteria before applying. Contact Laurel Currie, Program Manager, with any questions: <u>sustainability-scholars@uvic.ca</u>.