**Summer Placement – Electrofishing Survey Assistant**

**Location:** Keswick, Cumbria

**Duration:** Mid June to end of October (with mandatory training on water safety on 1st and 2nd of May)

**Hours:** 35 hours per week (7+hr/day) but a flexible working patterns will be accommodated. The post may require some weekend or evening work.

**Reports to:** Fisheries Officer

**Salary:** Grade 1A starting on £21,452

**Job Purpose and Summary**

West Cumbria Rivers Trust is an environmental charity based in Keswick, Cumbria, working to improve watercourses for people and wildlife. With support from local angling clubs, riparian owners, and other funding bodies, the Trust undertakes an extensive juvenile salmonid survey programme within the River Derwent, Ehen and Irt catchments which has run for the last nine years. This provides vital data to target watercourse improvement work undertaken by ourselves and many other partner organisations. The Trust is looking for a survey assistant to help the team undertake the vast number of sites proposed for this survey season.

This is a fantastic opportunity to gain experience in working in the environmental sector, participating in conservation and fisheries work. The Trust is keen to provide opportunities for newly qualified talented people looking to start their career, or take a change in career direction, especially those local to the Trust’s area, and further opportunities within the Trust may be available for the right person.

The role will be based from the Trust offices in Keswick but will be expected to work across our catchments and be able to drive the Trust’s 4x4 vehicles used for the survey work.

**Objectives:**

Working closely with Trusts Fisheries Officer and other daily volunteers and interns, the seasonal survey assistant will:

* Undertake salmonid surveys using timed electrofishing techniques;
* Undertake data entry into appropriate databases;
* Prepare and wash down survey equipment on a daily basis;
* Assist with the production of social media publicity of the project,
* Any other duties as required by the trust.

The successful candidate will be given the relevant training when required and have the opportunity for self-development in the role.

**Person Specification:**

You will be a self starter and demonstrate a committed, mature and flexible approach to your work. You will have excellent organisational and communication skills, being able to work equally well on your own or as part of a team. You will be reliable and self motivated.

You will be confident working in the outdoor environment and have a full driving licence and use of your own vehicle. Due to our insurance policy we cannot insure under 21’s to drive our vehicles.

You will be expected to have the relevant experience in the following areas:

Essential:

* Ability to work as part of a team and individually;
* Good communication skills;
* Excellent organisational skills;
* Confidence working outdoors in watercourses;
* Able to swim;
* A good degree of fitness to undertake physical tasks and sometimes lengthy walks into survey sites carrying equipment;
* Ability to use of Microsoft Excel and Word;
* Commitment, reliability and ability to demonstrate initiative;
* Interest in and knowledge of river ecology and fisheries .

Desirable:

* Ability to use social media platforms to promote the project.

**Other info:**

You will be part of an expanding and passionate team based in Keswick, reporting to the Trust’s Fisheries Officer and supported by WCRT’s Director and staff. The successful candidate will be provided with the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required to perform the tasks and will also be expected to attend training courses (Electrofishing, Water Safety and First Aid) before the role begins for which they will be paid to attend at the going salary rate.

If you believe that you have the passion, commitment and skills to take this exciting opportunity forward then we would like to hear from you. To apply please send a CV and covering letter outlining your qualifications, skills and experience relevant to this position, by emailing: recruitment@westcumbriariverstrust.org. If you would like more information about the position, please call Ruth Mackay for a chat on 017687 75429.

**This post is subject to a check by the Disclosure and Barring Service.**