

Job Title: Carrick Invasives Project Officer

Working Hours: This is a 2 year full-time position, working 37.5 hours per week.

Salary: Starting salary £19000, with a pension contribution of 6%.

Responsible to: Project Manager of Ayrshire Rivers Trust.

Objectives: To manage and coordinate control of invasive non-native species within the Carrick catchment.

Background to project

The Carrick Invasive Weeds Project will be starting in April 2012 and will be running until March 2014. Ayrshire Rivers Trust has secured funding from Ayrshire Leader, Carrick Futures, Hadyard Hill, Girvan DSFB and Stinchar DSFB. The aim of the project is to promote sustainable control of invasive species within the Carrick area. Included within the project area will be the Girvan and Stinchar catchments and coastal burns between the two main rivers. This is essentially a rural skills project, community members will be trained and equipped to enable the community to take control of this issue.

The ultimate aim of this project is to control and eventually remove invasive species from within the Carrick area. A range of biodiversity will benefit from the project including riparian plants, ground nesting birds and water voles. The project will run over two years with a funded project officer based within the project area.

Activities

Training

- Two PA6AW courses will be run annually with 8 volunteers in each course totalling 32 persons trained and qualified to control invasive weeds on a watercourse.
- One brushcutter course will be run annually with 6 volunteers in each course totalling 12 persons trained and qualified to strim Himalayan Balsam on river banks.

Annual and school events

- There will be 8 awareness raising events annually including local summer fayres throughout the different villages.
- Each school will be visited during the 2 year project to raise awareness amongst local school children (4 each year)

Volunteer days

- Four annual volunteer days will be organised, this will involve Himalayan Balsam pulling

Coastal Burns

- Invasive weeds surveys will be completed along coastal burns between the Stinchar and Girvan.
- Electrofishing data will be gathered.

Invasives control

- Project officer will actively control invasive species as well as working with community groups, landowners etc to encourage control across catchments
- Mink monitoring rafts will be deployed throughout the project area. Mink will be controlled and occurrence and capture data analysed.

Aims

Community involvement

- Communities within the project area will be fully engaged and informed regarding invasive species
- Persons living within communities throughout the project area will be trained, qualified and equipped to tackle invasive species in a sustainable manner
- All landowners and land managers will be familiar with best practice for invasives control

Japanese Knotweed

- Best practice will be promoted across the catchment with strategic control in upstream areas
- After two years Japanese knotweed will be under control in the Water of Assel and Upper Stinchar with reduced abundance across the project area.
- Further spread within catchments will be eliminated due to the best practice control

Himalayan Balsam

- Best practice control will be promoted across project area.
- Himalayan balsam will be controlled in the Duisk Water, upper Stinchar, Water of Assel and the Water of Girvan

Mink control

- The project area will have complete coverage with mink rafts
- Mink captures will be monitored and analysed over the two years
- Awareness will be raised with regards to water voles.

Biosecurity

- Raised awareness regarding the risks of introductions of American signal crayfish from surrounding waters.
- All contractors within the catchment will be provided with biosecurity guidance to limit the spread of invasives via plant and machinery.

Monitoring and evaluating

- Water vole populations within project area will be assessed
- Invasive weeds surveys will be repeated across project catchments before end of project

Main Duties:

1. To formulate, co-ordinate, and manage your work programme for the project, reporting back to the Project Manager/Trust Manager.
2. To develop and implement the strategies and the policies for the control of the targeted invasives.
3. To secure and maintain good working relationships with ART membership, District Salmon Fishery Boards within Ayrshire, and other public and representative bodies, including SEPA, SGRPID, SNH, local authorities and other River Trusts/Associations.
4. To initiate and secure good working relationships with Community Councils and local groups within the Carrick Area.
5. To manage and co-ordinate the work of local volunteers.
6. To engage with Volunteer Action South Ayrshire (VASA) the local Third Sector Interface.
7. To manage project funding, to meet financial targets as determined by the Project Manager and to assist with the claims.
8. To fulfil and develop the educational objectives of the Carrick Invasives Project.
9. To remain well informed and up to date with relevant INNS and environmental issues.
10. To represent ART within RAFTS and other relevant bodies.
11. To ensure compliance with Health and Safety requirements.
12. Salary will be paid in 12 monthly instalments on the 21st of each month.