



Walla Walla County Conservation District

325 North 13th Avenue
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509)522-6340 ext 5

Position Description

Title: Resource Technician

Introduction:

Walla Walla County Conservation District is seeking applicants to aid our fish screens and meters program and Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. Primary duties include working with rural landowners to design metering systems with fish screens. Additional assistance will be required in our CREP program for paperwork, field assessments and maintenance. Duties will include coordinating with regulatory agencies and providing compliance updates for grant providers. Priority consideration will be for applicants with a strong knowledge/understanding of irrigation systems, ability to troubleshoot mechanical/technical issues on water meters, ability to work outdoors over rough and uneven terrain, and a strong knowledge/interest of biology. Must have great verbal/written communication skills and CAD/GIS experience. Must have course work in one or more of the following areas: irrigation efficiency, agricultural sciences, biology, natural resource management, or a related discipline OR 5 years or more irrigated agricultural experience.

The duties of this position are to address natural resource issues by working cooperatively with private landowners, district staff and local, state and federal agencies to develop and implement plans and provide technical assistance. This position's primary responsibility will be coordinating and implementing district projects. Funding for this position is subject to availability and successful attainment of grant money annually.

Essential Duties & Responsibilities:

- Provide individual landowners with technical assistance including providing information and recommendations for voluntary implementation of resource conservation projects.
- Work cooperatively with landowners and coordinating agencies to effectively implement grant program requirements.
- Coordinate between landowner and other agencies for technical assistance.
- Contact interested landowners and assist them in developing individual plans to best protect and improve natural resources on their property.
- Coordinate and implement district projects.
- Prepare or assist with the preparation of project reporting, environmental compliance, and other documents.
- Promote the cost-share program and assist landowners with cost-share applications.
- Work with NRCS, partners and landowners to develop quality resource plans.

- Provide periodic project inspection during the life of the projects as directed by conservation district staff.
- Assist with identifying grant opportunities and write grant applications as assigned.
- Perform other duties as assigned by CD staff & District Board of Supervisors.

Required Knowledge & Skills:

- Preferred course work in one or more of the following areas: Irrigation efficiency, agricultural sciences, biology or physical sciences, natural resource management, or a related discipline OR 5 years or more agricultural experience.
- Ability and desire to motivate individuals to adopt and implement resource management practices on their property. This may include educational speaking in front of public groups, organizations, or clubs, as well as one-on-one interaction.
- Organizational, report and informational writing, and research skills are required.
- Must be able to effectively communicate verbally and in writing with a diversity of cooperators, co-workers, and others.
- Must be self-motivated, able to work positively in groups, work independently, efficiently and honestly.
- Must have demonstrable experience with individuals one-on-one and in group settings.
- Ability to coordinate multiple projects and timelines with flexible scheduling.
- Computer literacy is required.
- Ability to organize and plan own schedule of activities related to work goals'
- Ability to maintain accurate records regarding time-keeping and authorized expenses'
- Ability to work closely, cooperatively, and in a non-confrontational manner with others in a public office environment.
- Must be able to physically perform the tasks of the job in the field by traversing uneven ground in varied weather conditions and occasionally carrying up to 50 pounds of equipment and/or materials.
- Use current technology to conduct all conservation work activities.
- Must have, or be able to obtain, and maintain a valid driver's license.

Preferred Knowledge & Skills:

- Agriculture background and experience. Knowledge and understanding of agricultural and cropping systems
- Knowledge of a broad range of soil and water conservation principles, techniques, and practices to apply and install conservation systems, which involve diverse land uses.
- Knowledge and understanding of water quality standards and criteria for watershed health, riparian restoration, and ecosystem function.
- Knowledge and understanding of livestock practices and riparian management.

- Knowledge and understanding of plant communities and ecology regarding riparian function and restoration processes to improve water quality and aquatic habitat.
- Ability to import data, analyze data sets, and develop maps and other graphical
- depictions of plans using mapping software such as ArcGIS.

This position's compensation will start at \$15.00 per hour DOQ. This position will receive vacation and sick leave benefits, and medical/retirement stipend as outlined in the employee appointment letter after initial 3 month probationary period. Terms of compensation and benefits are set by the position appointment letter and may be amended at any time by the Board of Supervisors.