



VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Area Resource Specialist - Water

Application Deadline: January 27, 2016 at 5 p.m. (MST)

Locations: Western Montana (Lincoln, Sanders, Lake, Mineral, Missoula)

Anticipated Start Date: TBD

Overview: This Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) position is the initial part of what will be a statewide effort to serve locally based conservation groups. We are looking for someone to join our team to help build the future of natural resource management in Montana. A background in natural resource management and familiarity with state water and watershed restoration planning efforts is required. This position is responsible for working with local groups to identify and implement water management planning and watershed restoration activities. In addition to serving conservation districts, watershed groups, and other natural resource related entities directly, this position is the first employee of a new program that will serve people living in this basin concerning all water-related issues. Experience in program start-up is desired but not required. Desirable qualities include: ease in working with diverse audiences, a willingness to travel, a technical background in one of the sciences, and an understanding of the uses, needs, infrastructure, science, and history of water in Montana. This position will include significant travel and possible fieldwork and will be based out of a remote/home office depending upon preference. This position reports to the executive director of SWCDM.

NOTE: These are full-time, two-year positions funded through 2017 with possibility for extension dependent on funding.

Duties:

- Understand watershed planning documents and available agency resources
- Coordinate with local groups about funding opportunities and grant writing activities
- Coordinate with the local conservation groups to ensure services are meeting the diverse set of needs
- Ensure that activities operate within the policies and procedures of SWCDM and the State of Montana contract requirements
- Ensure that program activities comply with all relevant legislation and professional standards
- Identify monitoring needs and assist with developing monitoring strategies
- Communicate as outlined in work plans and funding agreements
- Ability and willingness to attend numerous evening meetings to communicate with conservation districts and other groups that are needed to make this program a success
- Work with landowners to address water conservation concerns
- Monitor the program activities on a regular basis and conduct an annual evaluation according to the program evaluation framework
- Report evaluation findings to the Executive Director and recommend changes to enhance program, as appropriate

LOCAL COMMON-SENSE CONSERVATION

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with conservation groups, office staff, landowners and partner agencies
- Ability to establish working relationships with a wide variety of people from differing backgrounds
- Ability to work independently with little supervision and with diverse clientele, self-starter
- Proficiency in basic computer programs and ability to learn new systems
- Knowledge of the principles of natural resource management with an emphasis on water
- Experience conducting water quality and/or quantity monitoring
- Excellent verbal/written communication and organizational skills
- Valid driver's license
- A general qualification guideline for this position is a Bachelor of Science Degree in Natural Resources, Water Resources, or a related discipline from an accredited university plus 4-6 years of experience

Training and Experience Guideline: Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Annual Salary: \$35,000 - \$45,000 per year, depending upon experience and qualifications

To Apply: Send a resume, three references with contact information, and responses to the following:

1. Describe your experience assisting local groups with implementing natural resource conservation.
2. What are your philosophies on water quality issues, water management and natural resource conservation?
3. How do you self-motivate your work activities when working alone?
4. What do you see as the biggest issues facing natural resources in Montana, especially water? What do you see the role of this position in these issues?
5. Please describe other skill sets you have that you think would be valuable to our organization.

Email: Send application materials to hire@macdnet.org.

The employee benefit package includes all state holidays, annual and sick leave, a health insurance stipend, AAA membership, a cell phone stipend, and a retirement plan.

For more information about this position and other openings available, visit: www.swcdmi.org/hiring

SWCDM is an equal opportunity employer.