



SEEKING SOIL RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST PLANNER

This is a full-time position with the Grant County Conservation District. This is a permanent position with development and advancement potential. The incumbent will receive formal, informal, and/or on-the-job training in the specialty area, and assignments will become progressively more difficult in nature. Assignments at this level are designed to provide the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to successfully perform at the intervening grade level. Non-competitive promotion to the next grade level is dependent upon: 1) satisfactory completion of the training requirements; 2) demonstrated ability to perform the duties at the next higher level.

The successful applicant must have a strong work ethic and desire to be part of a cohesive team in a rewarding work environment. This position focuses primarily on providing technical assistance to landowners and land managers engaged in the implementation of the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP), Collecting and managing natural resource data, coordinating project implementation, and assisting with administrative and education/outreach tasks as needed.

The Soil Conservation Planner is part of a dynamic team of resource professionals working to implement the vision of the Grant County Conservation District. Our vision is to be recognized by all private landowners as a source of financial, technical and educational assistance; and by local, state, and federal authorities as the organization of choice to implement on-the-ground stewardship activities. We serve the citizens of Grant County to ensure the long-term use of natural resources is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable using non-regulatory, voluntary approaches.

MAJOR DUTIES

Develops Conventional Conservation Plans

Receives training in professional farm planning methods and procedures; soil interpretations and properties; and in conservation application in order to develop a well-rounded experience in resource conservation planning and to better understand the interrelation of the various functional fields within the resource conservation program. Assists in gathering and assembling preliminary data for all resource concerns for use in developing complete basic farm conservation plans. Prepares draft drawings identifying problem areas in the field, delineates watershed areas, assesses soil types and performs preliminary layout of conservation practices on aerial photos. Completes assigned plans using most current web-based programs. Utilizes soil erosion tools such as RUSLE and WEPS and the Pesticide Risk Assessment tool; and other technology tools as part of conservation planning process. Completes the CPA 52, NRCS environmental assessment during the planning stages. Assembles completed farm plan folders according to current policy. Completes Conservation Planning course as part of requirement to become certified as a conservation planner. Conducts engineering surveys and lays out conservation practices and prepares drawings for conservation practices common to the area. Assists preliminary surveys and plots notes, and performs preliminary drafting and simple designs as assigned. Assists with construction checks of conservation practices installed to assure adherence to standards and specifications.

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Keeps daily records of time and work accomplishments and summarizes time and accomplishments for periodic and special reports. Receives intensive and specialized training in all phases of the soil and water conservation programs, including information and education activities, working relationships with district governing body, and other state, federal, and local groups at the county level. Practice lay out, measurement, and certification.

Implements Farm Bill Programs

Basic understanding of applicable Federal, State Conservation, and conservation District programs available to address resource concerns and explains cost share programs and payment procedures to applicants and contract holders. With supervision provides technical assistance to farmers and ranchers about conservation programs. With supervision utilizes most current technology programs in the documentation and management of conservation plans and technical assistance. Utilizes current technology including electronic data collection and geographic information systems to perform duties. With supervision provides assistance in administrative, fiscal, and technical responsibilities for a wide variety of programs carried out at the field office which may include but are not limited to Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and easement programs.

Contract Review for Compliance with Schedules and Practice Requirements

Carries out a follow-up schedule for applying soil conservation practices in accordance with plan and contract schedules. Under the direction of the Resource Specialist, makes minor changes in farm plans as necessary to comply with changes in farm operations, change of ownership, or to provide a more workable plan for the farm operation. Assists with contract reviews as assigned and notifies supervisor when contracts are technically non-compliant.

Programs Promotion/Assistance to Supervisor

Carries out various duties which enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of soil conservation operations carried out by the office. Writes news articles and stories, conducts tours, speaks to groups and collects pertinent information to be used to further conservation programs. Consistently communicates and treats customers in a courteous, tactful, and respectful manner. Incumbent provides the customer with consistent information according to established policies and procedures. Handles conflict and problems in dealing with the customer constructively and appropriately.

Safety and Health

Performs duties in a supportive manner of a safe and healthy work environment. The incumbent exercises caution and maintains all safety requirements when exposed to dangerous objects, chemicals, and extreme temperatures.

Condition of Employment

Must possess and maintain a valid state motor vehicle operator's license for the type of vehicle(s) operated to perform the duties of this position. This may require the operation of a motor vehicle in both public and private roads during daylight hours and occasionally after dark.

**Condition of Employment**

The incumbent is required to obtain Conservation Planning Certification.

Educational Requirements

Bachelor's Degree in natural resources related fields.

How to Apply

1. Attach a current resume.
2. Complete a cover letter describing your interest in the position and highlighting your skills and abilities.

This position is a full-time 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, non-exempt, hourly position. Starting wage will be \$18-\$22 an hour, DOQ. This position receives annual leave, family/medical leave, holidays, medical insurance and retirement benefits. The position is located at 1107 S Juniper DR, Moses Lake, WA 98837, and phone number is (509) 765-9618 with any questions you may have. Please submit your resume to marie-lotz@conservewa.net or drop off at our office. Position is open until filled. First review of applicants will occur after January 18, 2019.