

Job Vacancy Announcement

Rangeland Conservationist

Northern Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Ranges

Apply by December 29, 2023

Location: Susanville, California
Salary: \$ 50,000/year + health stipend (\$5,000/year)
Duration: Fully-funded 2-year position

Position Overview

The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Wildlife Management Institute (WMI) are seeking to fill a collaborative position to enhance and conserve working lands, wildlife habitat, and healthy watersheds in the Northern Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Ranges of California. This is a 2-year, full-time position based in the NRCS field office in Susanville, CA with fieldwork in Lassen and Modoc counties.

The Rangeland Conservationist will assist NRCS in identifying, evaluating, and completing conservation plans on farms, ranches, and other private lands to enhance soil, water, plants, wildlife habitat and other natural resources in the Modoc Plateau region. This is a rural and naturally rich landscape characterized by numerous high elevation mountain ranges, expansive sage steppe foothills and productive valleys that provide a diversity of habitat and serve as a stronghold for wildlife.

Position Duties & Responsibilities

- Provide technical assistance (conservation planning, pasture management, rangeland management, wildlife biology, riparian management, forestry, or other natural resource disciplines) and guidance to landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and others. Training will be provided by NRCS and other entities.
- Coordinate integration and application of biological sciences and production agriculture within the NRCS conservation programs
- Complete conservation plans and maps, contracts, applications, and other required documentation for implementing Farm Bill conservation programs ((i.e., Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP))
- The position requires expertise in biological sciences, pasture management, rangeland science, and/or forestry in cooperation with private landowners and partners.
- Communicate program requirements to clients, complete site visits to determine eligibility, and develop contracts/plans for applicants enrolling in USDA conservation programs.
- Perform other related duties as assigned, including promotion, marketing and outreach activities related to USDA projects.

Qualifications:

- Ability to communicate effectively with private landowners, government agency personnel and conservation partner organizations.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision.
- Ability to work cooperatively with diverse clientele.
- Knowledge of farm and ranch management, wildlife habitat, plant ecology and other natural resources.
- Ability to obtain USDA Security Clearance and NRCS Conservation Planning certification.
- Excellent verbal/written communication and organizational skills.
- Valid driver's license.
- A general qualification guideline for this position is an Associate's Degree, or equivalent, in Natural Resource Planning, Rangeland Science, Pasture Management, Wildlife Biology/Management, Forestry, or Agriculture Technology, and/or experience in working lands management systems is desirable. Funding partners may agree to substitute work experience for education in the aforementioned areas.
- Computer skills are required and applicant should be familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Ability to use/or willingness to learn NRCS Conservation Desktop, NRCS Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool, GIS applications, and GPS systems.
- Physical ability to stand and walk for extended periods of time over rough terrain; lift and move material weighing up to 50 pounds; work in all types of weather conditions.

Partnering Organizations

Natural Resources Conservation Service

The NRCS supports America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners. They deliver conservation solutions so agricultural producers can protect natural resources and feed a growing world. They have a vision of clean and abundant water, healthy soils, resilient landscapes, and thriving agricultural communities through voluntary conservation. The NRCS motto is "helping people help the land."

Intermountain West Joint Venture

The Intermountain West Joint Venture's mission is to conserve and enhance bird habitats at meaningful scales through capacity building, science, communications, and strategic partnerships. The funds for this position contributed by the IWJV are primarily of federal origin, managed through Cooperative Agreements with the hiring entity (WMI).

Wildlife Management Institute

The successful applicant will be an employee of Wildlife Management Institute (WMI). WMI is a professional conservation organization that works to improve the foundation of wildlife management. Their mission is: "dedicated to the conservation, enhancement and professional management of North America's wildlife and other natural resources."

Supervision

The Rangeland Conservationist will participate in annual job performance reviews with an IWJV

coordinator and NRCS District Conservationist. Daily activities will be supervised by the NRCS District Conservationist.

Benefits and Additional Information

As a limited-term employee of the Wildlife Management Institute (WMI), incumbents will be expected to work no more than an average of 74 hours per two-week pay period. WMI does not currently offer health insurance for limited-term employees. As such a health stipend equivalent to 10% of the employee salary will be provided to help offset the cost of health insurance. WMI may offer health insurance to limited-term employees in the future. If you are selected for this position, WMI begins providing health insurance for limited term-employees, and you elect to accept health insurance provided through WMI, the health stipend will be redirected to cover the costs of the health insurance benefit. 401(k) retirement benefits, workers' compensation, general liability protection, professional liability protection and unemployment insurance benefits will be provided by WMI.

To Apply: Send a cover letter, resume, and three references with contact information.

Email: Send application materials to kasey.bader@iwjv.org with the subject line "Susanville Rangeland Conservationist" by the application deadline.

Application Deadline: Preference will be given to applications submitted by December 29, 2023. Job posting will be removed when filled