

Ogden Wet Meadow and Sagebrush Specialist

Apply By: Preference given to applications received by August 28, 2024.

Location: Ogden, UT with work in Davis, Weber, Morgan, and Summit Counties

Salary: \$60,000- \$65,000 DOE

Duration: Fully-funded 2-year position

Position Overview

The Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and The Wildlife Management Institute are seeking to fill a collaborative position to enhance and conserve working lands, wildlife habitat, and healthy watersheds in Northern Utah. This is a 2-year, full-time position based in the NRCS field office in Ogden with fieldwork in Davis, Weber, Morgan and Summit counties.

The Wet Meadow and Sagebrush Specialist will assist NRCS in identifying, evaluating, and completing conservation plans and programs on farms, ranches, and other private lands to enhance soil, water, plants, wildlife habitat and other natural resources in Northern Utah. Particularly, this position will help enhance water resources for wildlife and people by supporting agricultural irrigation infrastructure improvements and land management practices that support wildlife habitat.

Position Duties & Responsibilities

- Assist NRCS staff in working with producers to implement strategic wet meadow and sagebrush conservation on working lands.
- Provide technical assistance and support the implementation of Farm Bill conservation programs ((i.e., Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)) with a focus on projects that enhance, sustain, and support sagebrush rangelands, managed wetlands, and/or irrigated agricultural lands with value to migratory birds and other wildlife.
- Provide technical assistance in developing and revising conservation plans. Make on-site evaluations and analyze resources, consulting with other specialists such as biologists, range conservationists, soil scientists, and engineers, as required.

- Prepare and recommend conservation practices and conservation management systems to landowners and/or operators, communities, etc. with emphasis on water conservation, water quality, and to improve and protect the soil and other natural resources. Be accountable for technical adequacy and quality of assistance provided. Ensure that plans comply with local, state and federal laws, policies, and procedures.
- Develop relationships with landowners and/or operators, communities, etc. to build engagement with new producers. Develop and implement approaches to advise and encourage landowners, operators, or community officials, and groups to apply proper resource management, irrigation water management and conservation practices as appropriate.
- Provide training and guidance to practitioners regarding IWJV data products such as the Wetland Evaluation Tool
- Provide literature reviews and science support on projects that enhance, sustain, and support sagebrush rangelands, managed wetlands, and/or irrigated agricultural lands with value to migratory birds and other wildlife.
- Maintain working relationships with employees of other local, federal and state agencies, and other groups and organizations to coordinate conservation plans and to provide technical assistance on problems.
- Participate in local district, partner, and other stakeholder meetings and informational programs. Identify opportunities to educate the public regarding USDA projects and programs.

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 Bachelor's Degree (or equivalent experience) 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 the 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 host 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

In this unique partnership, the position is hosted by the Wildlife Management Institute and the position is fully integrated into the daily activities of Utah NRCS. Daily activities will be supervised by the NRCS District Conservationist. The Wet

Meadow and Sagebrush Specialist will participate in annual job performance reviews with the IWJV Water 4 Coordinator and NRCS.

Benefits and Additional Information

WMI offers health insurance for the employee and employee's spouse and children, 401(k) retirement benefits, workers' compensation, general liability protection, professional liability protection and unemployment insurance benefits.

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 "Ogden Wet Meadow and Sagebrush Specialist" by the application deadline.

Application Deadline: Preference will be given to applications submitted by August 28. Job posting will be removed when filled