



PRIVATE LANDS BIOLOGIST/TECHNICIAN POSITION

AGENCY RiversEdge West with support from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

TYPE Full-time exempt, 40 hrs/week

LOCATION Grand Junction, Colorado

WAGES \$44,000 - \$48,000 commensurate with experience.

BENEFITS Includes Group Health Insurance plan, 403(b)7 retirement plan, holiday and paid time off (vacation and sick), continuing education stipend, and employee assistance program.

APPLICATION DIRECTIONS Please send cover letter, resume, and three references in one document via email to rlloyd@riversedgewest.org, with the title "Last Name_PLB_Application_2020" word and PDF files only. **Applications must be received by 5:00pm November 10th, 2020 for consideration.**

JOB DESCRIPTION

NRCS and REW have partnered to create the Private Lands Biologist/Technician position. The Private Lands Biologist/Technician will be responsible for delivering conservation programs and riparian restoration practices on private lands in Western Colorado with a focus in Mesa and Delta Counties.

The program will deliver technical resources to landowners and other land managers that integrate riparian restoration practices and NRCS supported conservation practices. Success will be achieved via direct contact with landowners with the goal of developing good working relationships. Improved relationships with private landowners will produce more effective on the ground practices which will be supported by REW resources and incentives provided by the NRCS and US Farm Bill.

Position will be located in Grand Junction, Colorado and will require travel throughout the western part of the state. The incumbent is expected to work closely with NRCS personnel in the region, with direct supervision provided by REW and shared oversight with NRCS. This is a full-time position with a comprehensive benefits package.



PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Serve as part of a professional team involving agency personnel, wildlife biologists, funding partners, and individual landowners that strive to identify priority conservation landscapes, design and implement riparian restoration projects, and deliver community education and outreach programs.
- Enroll privately owned lands into the USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs by utilizing partnership efforts such as Colorado Parks and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and others.
- Develop conservation plans, contracts, applications, and other required documentation for Farm Bill Conservation Programs. Provide technical/ programmatic support, including recommending management prescriptions for conservation to NRCS and clients.
- Develop and sustain cooperative working relationships with landowners, conservation groups, other agency personnel, and resource professionals.
- Use critical thinking to develop and implement conservation projects and habitat enhancement efforts targeting priority landscapes as outlined in various conservation plans (e.g., Colorado Water Plan, Basin Implementation Plans, Watershed Partnership Implementation Plans, Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan, etc.).
- Develop technical proficiency in conservation planning, agency business tools, surveying, and designs. (e.g., Conservation Desktop, Protracts, IDEA, Client Gateway, AutoCAD, etc.).
- Manage existing restoration projects by conducting monitoring and status reviews and prescribing management activities.
- Identify, develop, and provide formal trainings and products to landowners and other stakeholders for information and outreach.
- Conduct biological assessments.



QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree (M.S. preferred) in conservation or related agricultural or natural resource disciplines such as agronomy, botany, biology, ecology, hydrology, soil science, forestry, agricultural science, or agricultural/civil engineering.
- Practical understanding of river and riparian systems, ecology, and land management.
- Knowledge of Colorado flora and fauna in grassland, arid/semi-arid, and riparian communities.
- Working knowledge of US Farm Bill programs.
- Ability and desire to work with a diverse group of people including state, federal, and non-governmental resource professionals, agricultural producers, and other community representatives and stakeholders.
- Motivated self-starter who can work independently under remote supervision.
- Strong written, verbal, and interpersonal skills.
- Valid state driver's license and ability to travel throughout the landscape on a regular basis, often to remote locations in inclement weather or adverse conditions.
- Exceptional organizational and time management skills.
- Willingness to perform administrative work in a controlled environment/office setting.
- Working knowledge of MS Office and GIS software is desirable.

For more information, contact Rusty Lloyd via email at rlloyd@riversedgewest.org or by phone at (970) 256-7400.

www.RIVERSEGEWEST.org

