

Forester Position: Fort Collins Conservation District

Position

Conservation Forester

Location

Fort Collins, CO USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Office

Salary, Benefits, and Employment Status

Salary: \$38,000 to \$48,000 annually; dependent on experience

Benefits: Employee health insurance plan available, 3% retirement match after 6 month probationary period

Position is Full Time. Contract renewable annually dependent on performance and funding

Position Overview:

The Fort Collins Conservation District (FCCD), a local branch of State Government, in partnership with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation District is hiring a forester for our Healthy Forest Initiative program. Forests within the District cover a wide variety of natural environments and human communities. Conservation District staff work with landowners, community representatives, and other agencies and disciplines to establish, manage, protect, and restore forest resources. This position's primary duty is to plan and manage forest restoration projects in northern Larimer County, from initial outreach to implementation. The position will be supervised by FCCD's Forestry Program Manager.

Minimum Qualifications

- A bachelor's degree in forestry or a related natural resources degree
- Ability to work outdoors (est. 70% field work), often alone, during all seasons to complete required field work; ability to hike over steep, uneven terrain to perform strenuous outdoor work in a variety of weather conditions
- Ability to operate motor vehicles including 4x4 trucks and ATVs/UTVs on and off road
- Must have a valid Colorado driver's license or the ability to acquire one upon employment
- Technical writing skills – write effectively and efficiently on topics involving forestry and natural resources (grant applications, reports, educational/promotional documents, press releases, etc.). Experience with grant writing and/or project proposal development
- Ability to convey ideas and scientific concepts related to natural resources to those who may or may not be familiar with such topics (politicians, general public, land managers, journalists, etc.)
- Ability to manage complex projects involving multiple parties, contracts, budgets, field operations and record keeping
- Familiarity with common forest inventory equipment, maps and GPS units, data loggers
- General computing: proficient in Microsoft Office Suite, ArcGIS, and able to learn other software programs as necessary
- Highly organized and efficient in managing tasks, projects, computer files, supplies, and time
- Self-motivated and self-directed; take initiative to solve problems and meet needs
- Flexibility to perform a variety of duties and deal with unforeseen events
- Excellent communication, both verbal and written
- Problem solving skills, inter-personal and customer service skills
- Enjoy working with people and respect different viewpoints
- Committed to safety, quality, and professionalism
- Experience with professional presentations and adult education/training
- Discretion in maintaining confidentiality of NRCS, FCCD, and client business and records

Primary Duties

Develop Forest Management Plans:

- Engage new and existing landowners to initiate projects
- Identify resource concerns
- Collect, organize, analyze, and interpret forest inventory data
- Develop prescriptions based on best-available and relevant scientific publications
- Create a written Forest Management Plan for each project/landowner

Manage Logging Contracts from Inventory through Implementation:

- Lay out treatment units and mark boundaries
- Complete individual leave-tree mark
- Develop plans of operation
- Create RFPs to distribute to logging contractors
- Aid FCCD board in contractor selection
- Write contracts and/or amend logging contract templates for each project
- Create budgets, track invoices, certify completed milestones
- Regularly perform site visits to ensure compliance with scope of work and BMPs
- Work with landowners and contractors to solve problems

Administrative:

- Develop project budgets
- Track budget progress with invoices, spreadsheets, status reports
- Identify need for grant-funded work and pursue existing/new grant opportunities
- Apply for grants and/or partner funds
- Compile project data incl. maps, budgets, inventory data, scope of work, prescriptions, letters of support, etc. for grant applications and reimbursement reports
- Ensure contracts and timelines comply with grant requirements

Outreach and Development:

- Develop strategic partnerships with private and public entities; work collaboratively to further the mission of FCCD, stakeholders, and partners
- Plan meetings, give presentations, and host field tours to recruit new partners and clients
- Engage with board of supervisors to maintain and improve programming and to find new project or funding opportunities
- Create educational and outreach documents, presentations, and other products to inform landowners and other stakeholders of the Healthy Forest Initiative.

Application Process and Contact Information

All interested persons must email a current résumé, cover letter, and a list of three (3) employment references to the Forestry Program Manager:

gretchen.reuning@co.nacdnet.net

USDA/NRCS, Suite 116
2150 Centre Ave; Bldg. A.
Fort Collins, CO 80526

A federal background check will be utilized as a contingency for employment. Interviews will be conducted to select the employee. *All application materials must be submitted by July 6, 2020.*