

SKAMANIA COUNTY

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: COUNTY FORESTER

FLSA STATUS: E x e m p t

Approved: 08/22

Revised:

Range:23

SUMMARY

This position provides professional level forestry and field-focused expertise to the U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Skamania County for cooperative work on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest (GPNF) under the Good Neighbor Authority. Position reports to the Board of County Commissioners and works closely with the WA DNR Southwest Washington Lead Restoration Specialist and the GPNF Vegetation Manager. This position will have the opportunity to make a substantial impact on the natural resources of Skamania County and the Gifford Pinchot. This position will also contribute to increasing the pace and scale of restoration projects throughout Skamania County. Typical duties include leading and participating in the design and implementation of commercial and non-commercial restoration projects across the GPNF, including presales layout, contract preparation, project compliance, and program planning. Position will complete a broad variety of tasks associated with terrestrial and aquatic habitat restoration, as well as forest road projects that bolster critical restoration needs in these forested landscapes. Position may help develop a Natural Resource plan for the County and define specific areas of the county that could benefit from the plan.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Provides a broad overall view of the GNA and the partnership in general.

Performs forest restoration tasks related to the implementation of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) projects, in coordination with U.S. Forest Service and Washington Department of Natural Resources, including commercial and non-commercial project layout, contract preparation, implementation, and compliance. Tasks include timber presale preparation, general sale layout, road layout, boundary delineation, marking, cruising, and silvicultural prescription writing.

Performs commercial and non-commercial contract compliance on U.S. Forest Service restoration projects in coordination with specialists and contracting officers.

Prepares and reviews state and county legal documents (SEPA and timber sale contracts) and other internal agency documents for contracted activities.

Reviews, interprets, and implements Federal laws related to environmental analyses, categorical exclusions, and environmental impact statements, reviews all documents for accuracy prior to implementation or advertisement.

Ensures necessary documents for billings, inspection reports, road construction compliance, and other associated documents adhere to contract and agreement specifications.

Operates Global Positioning System (GPS) for mapping of project boundaries and road locations.

Utilizes other natural resource professionals' expertise in planning management activities to help identify resource protection measures that may be required.

Participates in tours of projects with other agencies, interest groups, and neighbors.

Develop Natural Resource Plan for Skamania County and define specific areas that could benefit from the plan.

Coordinates with various programs at the local, state and federal levels to plan and implement restoration projects.

Provides programmatic updates to County leadership

Serves as a professional and positive source of knowledge for public outreach.

Performs other work as assigned.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES

Knowledge of modern forestry theory, policies, and practices, including fundamentals of silviculture of northwest species, markets and economics, cruising methods, sale layout, logging methods, forest road engineering construction and design, reforestation, weed control, multiple use, inventory, watershed management, and basic principles of wildlife and fisheries management.

Knowledge of timber sales, pre-commercial thinning, fuels management, or other projects typical of forest management activities.

Knowledge of environmental planning principles, techniques, and current trends concerning all phases of state resource development.

Knowledge of federal and state requirements that would impact the Natural Resource uses.

Knowledge of governmental administration structure at local and state levels.

Knowledge of county, state, and federal ordinances, policies, and other applicable regulations as they apply to natural resources management on federal lands, including the National Environmental Planning Act (NEPA).

Skill in use of ArcGIS and Microsoft Office Suites.

Skill in the use of related office and field equipment including GPS, compass, relaskop/prism, laser rangefinder, and computer software.

Skill in communicating with coworkers, partners, and stakeholders.

Skill in functioning as a team leader and as a member of a team.

Skill in determining unsafe practices and proper safety precautions.

Skill in researching federal and state requirements.

Ability to develop short- and long-term work plans.

Ability to direct and inspect the work of consultants and contractors.

Ability to use sound judgment and discretion with regard to the interpretation of related statutes, regulations, and county policies.

Ability to work either independently or as part of a team.

Ability to express ideas in verbal and written form.

Ability to work effectively as a team member.

Ability to maintain accurate records.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with co-workers, supervisors, federal, state and local government agencies, private contractors, consulting engineers, and the general public.

Ability to comfortably and safely hike at length in remote forest environments.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Possession of a Bachelor or Associate Degree in Forestry or other applicable natural resource field, and/or 4 years of applicable experience applying theory, policy, principles, and practices of the forestry profession.

Demonstrated experience and competency in ArcGIS.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Work is generally performed 70% in the field conducting project layout or conducting onsite inspections requiring safely hiking at length in remote forest environments and 30% in the office, attending meetings, completing business or administrative tasks, or office planning. Must possess knowledge of forestry equipment and be capable of working within logging and construction zones safely. Field activities may include work in moderate to extreme weather conditions. Office Activities include working at a computer terminal, writing and filing. Meeting project requirements may involve working evenings, weekends and or holidays as necessary. Overtime may be required and working outside of a regular shift may be required during emergency situations.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS

The duties of the above position require walking, climbing, stooping, bending, reaching, kneeling, twisting, traversing uneven terrain, working in adverse weather conditions, and the ability to lift up to 50 pounds. Requires finger dexterity, sense of touch, gripping with fingers and hands; ability to see, hear voice conversation, and to speak.

The statements contained herein reflect general details as necessary to describe the essential functions of this job, the level of knowledge and skills typically required, and the scope of responsibility, but should not be considered an all-inclusive listing of work requirements. Individuals may perform other duties as assigned, including work in other functional areas to cover absences or relief, to equalize peak work periods, or otherwise to balance the workload.

It is the policy of Skamania County to not discriminate against any person with regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, physical/mental disability, creed, marital status, pregnancy and maternity, sexual orientation, gender identity, veteran status, guide dog or service animal, and genetic information of any other protected status under federal or state statute.
