

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sage-Grouse Initiative

Rangeland Management and Wildlife Specialist

Application Deadline: September 30, 2011

Location: Buffalo, Wyoming Anticipated Start Date: November 1, 2011

Overview: This position is part of a collaborative effort among the Lake DeSmet Conservation District (LDCD), Powder River Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) to further the delivery of the NRCS Sage-Grouse Initiative (SGI). This position provides range /wildlife technical assistance for the SGI and associated Farm Bill conservation programs to agriculture producers and landowners. This position is a three year at-will term position and will be an employee of LDCD who will provide input and guidance with daily instruction and leadership provided by the local NRCS District Conservationist.

Duties:

- Provide technical assistance (range conservation and wildlife biology focus) and guidance to landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and others. Training will be provided by NRCS, IWJV and other local and state agencies.
- Coordinate integration and application of biological sciences within the conservation programs in cooperation with the local NRCS District Conservationist and others and consistent with the Field Office Technical Guide.
- Complete conservation plans and maps, contracts, applications and other required documentation for Farm Bill conservation programs (i.e., EQIP, WHIP, FRPP, GRP, CRP and WRP) requiring biological and rangeland science expertise in cooperation with the partners.
- Communicate program requirements, complete site visits to determine eligibility, and develop contracts/plans for applicants enrolling in USDA conservation programs or other state and local conservation programs for the protection, restoration and enhancement of sage-grouse habitat.
- Coordinate and participate in field work activities for sage-grouse habitat project implementation and work with agricultural producers.
- Perform other related duties as assigned, including marketing and public outreach regarding SGI.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agencies.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision and with diverse clientele.
- Knowledge of range science and wildlife ecology including the ability to develop prescribed grazing plans that include wildlife habitat management objectives.
- Able 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 a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Science and/or Wildlife Biology/Management from an accredited university with an emphasis on developing prescribed grazing systems and course work and/or experience on integrating wildlife management principles into the management systems. Please refer to *Additional Educational Requirements*.
- Knowledge of computer skills is required and applicant should be familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Ability to use ArcMap and Toolkit is preferred.
- Physical ability to: stand and walk for extended periods of time over rough terrain; lift and move material weighing up to 50 pounds; and work in all types of weather conditions.

Training and Experience Guideline: Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities.

Salary and Benefits: \$60,000.00 - \$75,000.00 per year based on experience; health and retirement.

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

Email: Send application materials to *Lake DeSmet Conservation District, c/o Nikki Lohse, District Manager, 621 West Fetterman, Buffalo, WY 82384* by the application deadline.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A. Degree: Range Management; or a related discipline that included at least 42 semester hours in a combination of the plant, animal, and soils sciences, and natural resources management, as follows:
 1. Range Management – at least 18 semester hours of course work in range management, including courses in such areas as basic principles of range management, range plants, range ecology, range inventories and studies, range improvements, and ranch or rangeland planning.
 2. Directly Related Plant, Animal, and Soil Sciences – at least 15 semester hours of directly related courses in the plant, animal, and soil sciences, including at least one course in each of these three scientific areas, i.e., plant, animal, and soil ecology, animal nutrition, livestock production, and soil morphology or soil classification are acceptable.
 3. Related Resource Management Studies – at least 9 semester hours of course work in related resource management subjects, including courses in such areas as wildlife management, watershed management, natural resource or agricultural economics, forestry, agronomy, forages, and outdoor recreation management.