

April 22, 2019

Intermittent Range Program Specialist Position Description & Preferred Qualifications

Program Description

The Pima County Range Program is seeking recent graduates of educational organizations or working specialists in range, natural resources, agriculture, applied sciences and related programs and fields to assist with all areas of Range Program work on a part-time basis (1,560 hours per year). The specialist will work under supervision of the Range Program Manager, and occasionally with other Natural Resource staff to fulfill program goals and objectives.

The Range Program is within the Natural Resources Division of Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) Department and administers the Pima County ranch leases in Tucson, Arizona. The Range Program Manager oversees administration, planning, project management, interdepartmental coordination of the County Ranches, and three staff positions for range-related projects on the ranches. The Range Program Specialist position is based in Tucson, Arizona.

Minimum Qualifications

1. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with a major in management, public or business administration or a field closely related to the program area, as determined by the appointing authority at the time of recruitment. (Relevant experience and/or education from an accredited college or university may be substituted.)

Preferred Qualifications

1. At least one year of experience performing rangeland trend, condition and utilization monitoring and southwest region plant identification;
2. At least one year of experience operating GPS units to locate range or natural resource projects and infrastructure;
3. At least one year of experience using Geographical Information Systems (GIS) software to outline range or natural resource projects and infrastructure;
4. At least three years of experience using the Microsoft Office suite of program software (Word, Excel, Power Point) and Adobe software to generate written reports, tables and presentations;
5. At least six months experience of field work involving collaborative range or natural resource activities, livestock and/or wildlife management.

Comments

Field work will compose approximately 60% of the work time with remainder as office time. Field work is performed on large acreage ranches in rural, remote areas of Pima County. Candidate should have the ability to:

- Drive long distances to rural and remote ranch locations and meet with ranch lessees and other County or agency staff;

- Operate a four-wheel drive vehicle on paved and rough, dirt roads and navigate to rugged, remote areas;
- Ride in and drive OHVs for field work;
- Ride horseback on occasion for field work;
- Work in extreme heat and cold, in areas where flash flooding, lightning, venomous animals, spiny vegetation and border activity may occur or may be present;
- Hike in rugged terrain;
- Lift and carry at least 40 lbs;
- Work independently and in group settings;
- Transport themselves to and from assigned work duty station daily.

Position duration

This part-time position is 1,560 hours per year with benefits, indefinite.

Wages

Starting salary \$18.37/hour if preferred qualifications are met.

Application & Contact

The online application opens May 10, 2019 and will be open for four weeks at:

<https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/pima>

For questions and more information, please contact Vanessa Prileson, Range Program Manager:

Vanessa.Prileson@pima.gov

(520) 349 – 4092 cell

(520) 724 – 5266 desk



Background of the Pima County Range Program

Pima County manages 17 ranch and farm properties (“ranches”) and associated state and federal livestock grazing leases that total almost 200,000 acres. These ranch acquisitions were the result of efforts from voter-approved bonds that passed in 1997, 2004 and 2007 in support of conserving open space and ranches per the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan (SDCP).

The SDCP considers conservation of the following elements:

1. Critical Habitat and Biological Corridors
2. Riparian Areas
3. Mountain Parks
4. Historical and Cultural Preservation
5. Ranch Conservation

Most of the ranches acquired are managed by the previous private sector ranch owners through Ranch Management Agreements (RMA) with Pima County and as a result remain working ranches. Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) Department oversees the administration of the ranches and associated RMAs through the Rangeland Management Program in the Natural Resources Division.

Background of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan

The SDCP is the culmination of decades of efforts to conserve open space and proactively manage natural resources around economic growth within Pima County. The SDCP is a science-based conservation plan that updates Pima County’s Comprehensive Land Use Plan to establish a Conservation Lands System (CLS), and includes a multiple species conservation plan (MSCP) that addresses endangered species compliance. The CLS is a robust open space preserve system funded from open space bonds and other sources that guides the acquisition of open space and habitat conservation lands by Pima County. The MSCP was finalized in September 2016 and will be implemented over the next 30 years, protecting habitat for 44 vulnerable, threatened, and endangered species.

The listing of the Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl as an endangered species in 1997 was the final push that prompted the Pima County Board of Supervisors (BOS) to call for a renewed, proactive approach to conservation and land use planning. At that time, any development or conservation project planning required complete assessments of potential effects on individual wildlife species on the Threatened and Endangered Species list in coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which often took years of valuable time and countless resources. The BOS directed the County and all participants to incorporate scientific assessments of the biological, cultural and economic components of Pima County in the planning efforts to create a more proactive approach to conservation and development planning. Most importantly, the BOS invited participation from many interested industries, agencies and community groups into the planning effort, in addition to gaining public investment.

Work on the SDCP by the County and all stakeholder groups fulfilled three main areas of need: 1) a science-based conservation plan; 2) an update of the 1992 Comprehensive Land Use Plan; and 3) compliance with federal regulations that protection of threatened and endangered species be addressed through a habitat conservation plan.

More information on the SDCP can be found here: <http://www.pima.gov/cmo/sdcp/reports.html>