MASON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

District Forester – Resource Technician

TYPE OF POSITION: Regular, Full-time

LOCATION: Shelton Office and Field

Pay Range: $54,744 - $73,625

Opening Date: August 29, 2022
Closing Date: Open until filled

Employment Application: Send a cover letter, resume and references electronically to: accounting@masoncd.org

Benefits: The District provides a comprehensive benefits package:

- Vacation accrual begins at eight (8) hours per month and increases based on years of service.
- The District’s recognizes twelve (12) holidays per year, which includes one (1) personal holiday.
- Sick leave accrues at eight (8) hours per month.
- The District currently covers 100% of employee’s health insurance, and 90% of eligible dependent’s coverage.
- The District and its employees participate in the Washington State Public Employees Retirement System (PERS).

Mason Conservation District is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Please let us know if you need any accommodation to participate in the application process.

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Job Summary

Join the Conservation District team and make a difference. Mason Conservation District is currently hiring one forester to support the Districts forestry program. This program provides hands-on forest stewardship planning to communities and small landowners across Puget Sound. The purpose is to improve forest health by empowering communities and private landowners to become knowledgeable and successful stewards of their forest resources.

Forests within the region 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 develop outreach to and working relationships with communities and small non-industrial forest landowners to recommend sustainable forest stewardship practices.
This position supports forestry programs in Mason, Thurston, Kitsap, and Pierce Counties. The geographic focus is expected to narrow to Mason and Thurston in March 2023.

This position reports to the Forestry Program Coordinator and is supported by a team that includes experts in land surveying, planning, biology, botany, forestry, education, outreach, farming, and accounting.

**Essential Functions**

- Perform on-site visits to non-industrial private forest (NIPF) landowners to address their concerns and planning needs.
- Provide technical assistance and planning support to communities on forest stewardship plans, fuels reduction projects, and forest stewardship projects.
- Perform in-field review of forest lands for health and productivity. Develop and interpret data for forest planning to include forest natural resource inventories, GIS/GPS mapping, standard forest inventory plots, identification of forest health issues such as insect, diseases and forest fire fuel loading.
- Develop written Forest Management Plans for landowners that meet county, state, and federal standards in support of federal and state cost-sharing applications, county timberland tax programs, and state forest practice permits.
- Create appropriate maps, data, and research for use in forest stewardship plans.
- Support landowners in preparing and submitting cost-share applications and implementing funded practices. Activities include preparing forest health management cost-share applications and Job Sheets associated with local, state and federal programs; supporting landowners with obtaining contractor estimates; providing ongoing technical assistance during and after the contract award process as needed.
- Assist with outreach and education about the forestry program to communities and NIPF landowners.
- Create media for and participate in outreach and education events, such as workshops, fairs, or Forestry Field Days by presenting and sharing information related to forest health and forest stewardship topics.
- Develop communications materials to market Program services including writing fact sheets, articles, and compiling landowner testimonials.
- Assist with program activities to meet Program objectives and grant requirement on time and within budget.

**Required Education, Experience, Competencies, Key Knowledge, and Skills**

- Bachelors degree in forestry or a related natural resources degree and a minimum of two years of professional experience in forestry, forest management, silviculture, terrestrial or plant ecology, botany, upland habitat restoration. A master’s degree with a concentration in forestry may be substituted for one year of experience.
- If you are a Certified Forester® by the Society of American Foresters, you meet the minimum qualifications for this position
- Ability to perform physical work in all weather conditions and routinely work on rough and sometimes dangerous terrain and lift up to 40 pounds.
• Ability and desire to work outdoors (est. 50% 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.
• Familiarity with common forest inventory equipment, maps, GPS units, and data loggers.
• Ability to write effectively and efficiently on topics involving forestry and natural resources (grant applications, reports, educational/promotional documents, press releases, etc.) including grant writing and/or project proposal development.
• Ability to work under tight deadlines and manage conflicting demands.
• Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite, ArcGIS, and able to learn other software programs as necessary.
• Highly organized and efficient management of tasks, projects, computer files, supplies, and time.
• Excellent communication skills, both verbal and written.
• Strong problem-solving, inter-personal, and customer service skills.
• A commitment to safety, quality, and professionalism.
• Shares a vision and passion for natural resource management and conservation practices.
• Strong work ethic and accountability; excellent attention to detail; willingness to learn new skills.
• Currently hold or can obtain a valid Washington State Driver’s License.

Other Desired Qualifications

• Status as a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester® or International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist.
• Knowledge of natural resource management priorities in the Puget Sound region.
• Understanding of the challenges and needs of the local NIPF landowner community.
• Familiarity with the National Resource Conservation Service Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP).
• Demonstrated ability to motivate individuals to adopt and implement resource management practices.
• Experience bringing together diverse partners and stakeholders.
• Knowledge of the conservation district system and local, state and federal partners.

Working Conditions

This position normally works from 8:00am – 4:30pm, Monday through Friday. However, periodic evening and weekend work may be required and the incumbent may occasionally be required to work in excess of 40 hours per week, or on weekends to meet deadlines. Work is performed in a combination of office and field settings. Ability to walk over steep, uneven, forested terrain under a variety of weather conditions year-round is required. This position is expected to be in the field approximately 50% of the time.