

Position Announcement

Soil and Water Conservation Specialist

Water Stewardship, Inc. (WSI)

A science-based nonprofit working to strengthen private and public sector efforts to reduce pollution of rivers, lakes and coastal waters and improve water management

The Position: The successful candidate will be a full time, term employee of Water Stewardship, Inc. (WSI) who will work with, and be co-located at, the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Conservation District office in Martinsburg West Virginia (WV) under a contract between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and WSI. The individual will plan the application of total resource management systems and provide conservation planning assistance from initial evaluation to completion.

A practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of soil, water, and environmental conservation related to agricultural operations and land use measures is needed. The person will also help landowners with issues related to soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource management and conservation. The person will also be involved in WSI's whole farm assessment, verification and continuous improvement and meet and work with WSI on occasions. The individual will receive training on these tasks from NRCS for the primary work with them and the Conservation District. WSI will provide training on our programs when the person is ready to begin those activities.

Job Responsibilities:

- * Works with landowners to develop, implement, maintain and revise conservation plans that are simple and clear-cut after training and with assistance from an experienced Conservationist
- * Explains conservation programs using straightforward narrations of facts and uncomplicated descriptions of conservation practices
- * Evaluates the implementation of conservation plans and their alternatives or assists an experienced Conservationist with these activities
- * Promotes, markets, and implements Farm Bill initiatives and maintains positive relationships with local, state, and federal agencies with the assistance of an experienced Conservationist
- * Maintains working relationship with WSI including reporting work activities, accomplishments and needs;

identifies opportunities to enhance or expand WSI work with these organizations; serves as WSI liaison to WV NRCS and Conservation Districts

- * Helps identify opportunities for expansion of WSI's assessment, verification and continuous improvement program in West Virginia

- * Conducts limited number of WSI whole farm assessment, verification and continuous improvement activities with agreement and coordination with WV NRCS. (This work activity will not begin until about six months after start date)

- * Assists WSI in report and proposal writing to NFWF or others related to position.

- * Attend meetings with NFWF as requested and meet or work with WSI for periods not to exceed 24 days per year (average of two days per month)

Qualifications:

- * Bachelor's degree in Soil or Crop Science, Agronomy or related discipline

- * At least 30 semester hours in biological, physical or earth sciences with 15 hours in soil or crop science or related courses and at least 3 semester hours in soils

- * Good written and oral communication skills

- * Good inter-personal communication skills particularly related to speaking, small group discussions and individual discussions related to engaging farmers and/or landowners in implementing conservation

- * Advanced degree and/or relevant experience is desirable

- * Strong technical background in soils and/or agricultural systems is desirable

- * Field experience working with farmers and/or rural landowners is desirable

Position Details and Compensation:

- * This is full time, term position through September 30, 2015 with potential for renewal of the appointment beyond that time.

- * The position will be located in one of five NRCS offices in the WV Chesapeake Bay watershed. Exact office location will be known by the time of the interviews

- * The individual will work under the day to day supervision of the District Conservationist but reports to and is managed by the Executive Director of WSI

- * The person will spend some time working with WSI, with the amount and timing of this work mutually agreed upon by NRCS and WSI (anticipated to be 90% NRCS, 10% WSI)

* Salary is anticipated to be for a GS-7 Step 1 position (\$42,631). A higher Step grade would be subject to additional funding for an exceptional candidate that clearly exceeds minimum qualifications.

* This position will be offered WSI's comprehensive benefits package including health care and 401k program, and NRCS equivalent holidays.

Closing Date: 27 June, 2014

How to Apply:

* Contact Tom Simpson at 301-873-2268, toms@waterstewardshipinc.org or Anna Roberts annar@waterstewardshipinc.org for additional information

* Submit a professional resume and cover letter describing your experience and abilities relative to the position to:

Conservationist Search, Water Stewardship, Inc., 222 Severn Avenue, Suite 19, Bldg. 7-11, Annapolis, MD 21403 or e-mail to wsi@waterstewardshipinc.org

WSI is a 501c-3 nonprofit organization and an equal opportunity employer

***** Visit our website at www.waterstewardshipinc.org *****