

# Conservation Program Delivery

## ***JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT***

### *Conserving Waterfowl Habitat & Enhancing Livestock Production on Working Lands*

#### **Wetland Wildlife Conservationist**

**Application Deadline:** April 4, 2014

**Locations:** Lakeview & Burns, Oregon; **Anticipated Start Date:** on or about April 28, 2014

**Overview:** This position is part of a collaborative effort between the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and Ducks Unlimited to further conservation delivery of NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS) and other habitat conservation programs in southeast Oregon. These positions will provide technical assistance to NRCS for delivering the Working Lands Habitat Conservation for Waterfowl CIS and Harney Basin Aquatic Health Improvement CIS. The primary goal will be marketing and implementing Farm Bill conservation programs to livestock producers and private landowners. These positions will be Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Contract Employees, with daily guidance and leadership provided by local NRCS District Conservationists (DC's).

#### **Duties:**

- Provide technical assistance (conservation planning, livestock and flood-irrigation management, wildlife biology, range management, or other natural resource disciplines) and guidance to landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and others. Training will be provided by NRCS, IWJV, USFWS, DU and other local and state agencies.
- Coordinate integration and application of biological sciences and production agriculture within the conservation programs in cooperation with the local NRCS DC and others, consistent with Field Office Technical Guides.
- Complete conservation plans and maps, contracts, applications and other required documentation for Farm Bill conservation programs (i.e., Environmental Quality Incentives Program and ACEP easements) requiring expertise in biological sciences, surface-irrigated agricultural lands (i.e. flood-irrigated), aquatic invasive species management, invasive plant management and rangeland science in cooperation with private landowners and 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 management, restoration, enhancement and protection of flood-irrigated pasture and hay lands to mutually benefit livestock forage production and wetland-dependent migratory birds.
- Work with agricultural producers to develop and implement infra-structure repair projects on flood-irrigated pasture and hay lands. Provide information to landowners on emerging working lands conservation easement programs.
- Perform other related duties as assigned, including promotion, marketing and outreach activities related to USDA, NAWCA and OWEB projects.

#### **Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with private landowners and partner agencies.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision and diverse clientele.
- Knowledge of ranch management, range science and wildlife ecology, including the ability to develop and complete flood-irrigated infra-structure rehabilitation projects that include wetland wildlife habitat management objectives.
- Ability 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 Natural Resource Planning, Rangeland Science, Wildlife Biology/Management or Agriculture Technology from an accredited university, with an emphasis on developing prescribed grazing systems and course work and/or experience in integrating wildlife

management principles into the management systems is desirable. Ducks Unlimited may agree to substitute experience in ranch management if that experience includes forage production with flood-irrigation.

- Knowledge of computer skills is required and applicant should be familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Ability to use ArcMap and Toolkit would be beneficial.
- Physical ability to stand and walk for extended periods of time over rough terrain; lift and move material weighing up to 50 pounds; work in all types of weather conditions.

**Contract Information:** The funds for this contract are primarily of federal origin, managed through a Cooperative Agreement with Ducks Unlimited. As such, the Contractor will provide services through Consultant Agreements with Ducks Unlimited, Inc. The agreement(s) will specify that the relationship between the Contractor and Ducks Unlimited is that of an independent contractor. Funding has been secured for two years with intent to secure additional funds. Consultant agreements will be renewed annually based on performance. The successful candidate will be required to maintain liability insurance. Compensation is commensurate with experience. The workload is estimated to be 40 hours per week.

**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:** Up to \$50,000 per year, based on education and experience.

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

**Email:** Send application materials to [ccolson@ducks.org](mailto:ccolson@ducks.org) and [jim.stutzman@iwjv.org](mailto:jim.stutzman@iwjv.org) by the application deadline.