

DISTRICT VEGETATIVE TECHNICIAN

JOB DESCRIPTION

HIRING AGENCY: Gulf Coast Soil and Water Conservation District with direct supervision from the Office of Soil and Water.

STARTING PAY RATE: \$13.00/ Hour

WORK SCHEDULE: 40 Hour week: Monday – Friday 7:30am – 4:00pm, 30-minute lunch break

BENEFITS: Earned Paid Annual and Sick Leave and Parochial Retirement.
Optional Benefits: Health Insurance, Life Insurance, Deferred Compensation

WORK ATTIRE: Business Casual; no shorts, sandals, open-toed shoes, shirts with major logo prints or advertisements (Magellan, Columbia, etc Makers Emblems ARE allowed).

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: - A valid driver's license. High school diploma. Or, at least one year of specialized Natural Resource Management, Mitigation, or Agriculture experience or other which may enhance the ability to advise or prescribe to land users' specific installation and maintenance techniques of conservation practices.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF WORK

Basic or journeyman level duties assessing the environmental impact of agricultural and other land use operations on soil, water, wildlife, native plants, air and related natural resources and developing and/or directing implementation of conservation plans designed to protect and enhance these resources.

Work is performed in accordance with standards, policies and procedures established by the District, the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. General supervision is received from the Chairman of the district board, and daily work guidance and supervision is received from the NRCS district conservationist.

DUTIES

The district technicians duties will vary according to district workload and the experience level of the employee, and may include, but are not limited to the following:

Be able to make initial contact with landowners to explain the district program and opportunities for resources conservation and enhancement.

Implement Costal Re-Vegetation program by working with landowners to identify areas in need of vegetation, submitting project proposals and cost estimates. Collecting environmental/site evaluation data for proposals. Solicit bids for plants, project materials, and labor. Acquiring required permits. Installation and inspection of projects, monitoring and compiling data into yearly reports for current and past projects. Coordinating and supervising volunteers.

Works with the NRCS district conservationist to develop conservation plans and installation of various conservation practices for wetlands, cropland, grazing land, forest land and urban areas to assist land users with various natural resource conservation efforts.

Plots contours, cross-sections and profiles from field notes, takes measurements and calculates yardages used in planning conservation practices; prepares maps, field sheets, job sheets and work orders as required.

Advises landowners on installation of one or several alternative practices; surveys and prepares conservation plan layout and technical requirements according to practice specifications and conservation plan intentions; selects site, method and sequence of installing practices; and schedules installation work according to environmental site factors and seasonal priorities.

Prepares basic engineering plans; recommends standard practice designs; works with landowners in selecting alternative designs as necessary.

Performs final engineering practice inspections to ensure compliance with approved plans and specifications; recommends approval for program cost-sharing payments to landowners.

Plans and applies irrigation land-leveling and/or conventional land-grading practices.

Makes follow-up appointments and contacts landowners to assess their conservation application progress. Develops mutually acceptable solutions to practice installation or maintenance problems; makes plan adjustments when necessary without adversely affecting conservation practice systems integrity.

May work with Program Assistant to perform necessary steps to accomplish cost-share referrals including recommending certification for payment. Prepares necessary records and reports on conservation program work accomplished.

RESPONSIBILITY

Work assignments are relative to current field office objectives and seasonal or program priorities as determined by the Board of Supervisors in consultation with the District conservationist. Technical, administrative, or other problems encountered in the course of assigned duties may be resolved independently or in consultation with appropriate field office staff

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES REQUIREMENTS

Experience in operating a pickup truck, boat, and ATV. Must be able back up a trailer of at least 24 feet in length.

Ability to lift objects over 50 pounds.

Ability to work long hours in the sun, mud, and water near wildlife. (Must be able to swim)

General knowledge of farm operations, equipment, and terminology.

General knowledge of wetland functions and native plant species.

Working knowledge of applicable Farm Bill and other conservation programs and their eligibility requirements.

Ability to work and communicate effectively with landowners, to understand special land use concerns as they relate to conservation planning and practice installation.

Ability to interpret aerial photographs or digital imagery with a proficiency adequate to discern general land uses, physical land features, location, orientation and structures.

Computer literacy potential as required to utilize specialized conservation planning and field office reporting software.

Ability to apply an acquired background of knowledge and understanding of conservation programs, methods and practices and of land use needs and effects.