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10 March 2020

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: RESTORATION AND LANDSCAPE DESIGN Conservation Biologist

LOCATION: RCD Office, 540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga CA 90290
(Field work and education programs throughout the Santa Monica Mountains, Sepulveda Basin, and Santa Susana Mountains)

HOURS: Full Time: 40 hours per week

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Open until filled.

THIS IS NOT AN ENTRY LEVEL POSITION - SEE EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

Excellent opportunity to work with a dynamic natural resources organization and create your own projects. This is a fantastic job for trained biologists who also like to teach.

The RCDSMM is looking for an experienced, enthusiastic, self-motivated biologist to assist with field research and restoration work while generating and leading new projects to study and enhance the habitat and natural resources of the Santa Monica Mountains. We offer a proven record of successful grant applications and project support, mentoring by a well-recognized researcher, flexible schedule, and a great work environment.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK:

Scientific and Restoration:

- Manage implementation of tree related grants and contracts including coordinating staff and overseeing work plans for Trippett Oak Restoration and Rodeo Grounds Restoration. (This requires two weekends/month until 2021).
- Coordinate training, data management, QA/QC for community science projects such as iNaturalist (Bad Beetles of the Santa Monica Mountains, etc.).
- Coordinate invasive plant removal at restoration sites.
- Assist with scientific research and data collection.

- Assist with monitoring of, and research on, native trees, plants, and other terrestrial wildlife.
- Conduct and assist in supervising field work, including but not limited to: hiking, biological surveys, revegetation and invasive plant removal, and lifting/moving equipment.
- Assist with maintaining and calibrating field equipment including temperature loggers, cameras and water quality testing probes.
- Assist with data entry and management.
- Implement QA/QC protocols.

Environmental Services:

- Coordinate environmentally sensitive fuel modification projects with landowners.
- Assist RCD architect/conservation planner in completing ecological site analysis and recommendations for ecologically-appropriate land use/site plans for landowners, developers and contractors.
- Assist RCD architect and Defensible Space Coordinator with sustainable wildfire fuel modification planning and implementation projects.
- Assist with sustainable agriculture and urban farming program development, research and connection with local landowners.
- Conduct biological assessments according to Los Angeles and Ventura County protocols and prepare reports for permitting.
- Work with local vintners, permaculturists, and equestrian properties to reduce impact of farming on habitat and wildlife and to improve creek water quality.
- Promote and conduct Keep Your Green sustainable land management and design programs and consultations.

Mapping and GIS Services:

- Provide GIS services (including GPS point collection and management, developing maps, integrating data layers with other regional partners, coordinate translation from google earth and CAD, etc.) to landowners and the RCD for reports, permits and conservation planning.
- Create maps with Google Earth Pro, TOPO, and/or ArcGIS.
- Assist with design and preparation of site plans for restoration and fuel modification projects (CAD experience or training preferred).

Education and Outreach:

- Attend required professional training programs.
- Deliver training program content for restoration and research projects.
- Assist with field research and monitoring education programs with students of all ages (elementary to college).
- Assist with developing and designing brochures, web content, and social media content for new and existing programs.

Administration:

- Oversee grant and contract projects personnel and budget, including equipment and service acquisitions, and other expenditures.
- Develop additional proposals, grants and contracts for restoration and research.
- Assist in identifying local needs and developing funding to implement additional programs promoting land restoration and sustainable land use for local private and public landowners.
- Represent RCDSMM at public meetings and special events, including some evenings and weekends.
- Plan and lead discussion groups and workshops on resource issues.
- Learn the regulatory framework for local land use, advise and work with government agencies, private groups or individuals.
- Assist with coordinating sub-contractors, including but not limited to: civil engineers, traffic engineers, surveyors, construction staff, etc.
- Assist with supervision of the Watershed Steward Program interns.
- Coordinate work with Senior Conservation Biologist and Architect/Executive Officer.
- Create and maintain working relationships with leaders in the local and environmental community.
- Prepare comments on EIRs and other development and planning documents.

KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE:

- Education: Minimum of BS in science or related field.
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in field-based vegetation research/monitoring—provide verifiable documentation of these activities (certifications, trainings, etc.).
- Expertise in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access database, Power Point, and ESRI ArcGIS.
- Strong writing skills.
- Knowledge of the Santa Monica Mountains ecology and environment with expertise in native plants and restoration practices.
- Listed as an approved Consultant to prepare Biological Reports for Los Angeles and Ventura Counties (or meets the minimum qualifications for obtaining approval).
- Experience conducting protocol level vegetation surveys, associated map and report preparation.
- Experience with biological monitoring of construction projects.
- Experience with designing or supervising construction of sustainable landscape elements such as bioswales, rainwater harvesting and integrated native wildfire fuel modification.
- CNPS Field Botanist certification and ISA Certified Arborist certification preferred.
- Experience working with endangered species and knowledge of the Endangered Species Act preferred.
- Broad scope of knowledge in natural resources issues and understanding of basic science research methods.
- Land design and CAD training or experience preferred.

- Self-directed and able to communicate effectively orally and in writing.
- Strong leadership skills and ability to organize restoration events.
- Experience training and supervising volunteers and field staff.
- Organize time and resources efficiently.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Flexible in terms of total work hours, weekend volunteer projects, and ready to work on short notice.
- Provide required reports and data within time specified and by deadlines.
- Ability to take initiative and solve problems in the field.
- Physical fitness for field work.
- Comfortable hiking on slippery and uneven terrain.
- Report on time to all work assignments.
- Sense of Humor!

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Current CPR, First Aid and/or Wilderness First Responder certification (RCD will provide if needed).
- Current drivers license.
- Reliable transportation to and from the RCD Office, various locations within the Santa Monica Mountains, and other field locations as needed.
- Applicant must live within 45 minutes -1 hour driving distance of the RCD office with traffic (otherwise you will hate the commute!).

COMPENSATION: Hourly rate for position starts at \$30.00 per hour, but could increase depending on knowledge and experience. Benefits include CalPERS retirement, 457 plan, sick/vacation pay, 13 holidays, an 8% health insurance stipend and flexible work schedule.

TO APPLY: Please e-mail a cover letter that provides times when you are available for an in-person interview, resume (include 3 references), copies of your permits/certifications, and writing/graphing/mapping/report sample, as well as any examples of project reports and grants awarded, to info@rcdsmm.org or mail to: RCD of the Santa Monica Mountains, 540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd., Topanga CA 90290.

Interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Starting date is negotiable but preference given to applicants who can start no later than May 1, 2020. For more information, please call John Hendra at 818-597-8627x 102.

The RCDSMM is an equal opportunity employer