

Sotoyome Resource Conservation District Watershed Biologist

Position Summary:

Established in 1945, the Sotoyome Resource Conservation District (RCD) has been a leader in promoting the stewardship of natural resources in central and Northern Sonoma County. Since its establishment, the RCD has been providing educational, technical, and funding support to landowners in the following watersheds: Mark West, Dry Creek, Mill, Palmer, Felta, Austin, Maacama, Big Sulphur, Alexander Valley, Laguna de Santa Rosa, Sheephouse, Jenner and Russian Gulches, and other associated tributaries to the Russian River in addition to the entire Gualala River Watershed. For more information visit: www.sotoyomercd.org

The Watershed Biologist position manages all aspects of the RCD's Water Quality Monitoring and Assessment program including managing field technicians in monitoring program tasks, identifying equipment and funding needs, and program development. This position also assists in the watershed scale restoration planning and implementation of on the ground conservation projects including identifying conservation needs and contributing to design plans, obtaining permits, coordinating implementation, and pre and post-construction effectiveness monitoring. This position works on a team developing, promoting, and implementing conservation practices in the Russian and Gualala River Watersheds. Other responsibilities may include writing grant proposals and reports, presenting at educational and training events and working collaboratively with landowners, partner organizations and agencies to provide input on technical documents and reports.

Knowledge, Skills & Experience:

- Desire to embrace and achieve the mission of the RCD: to provide technical assistance and educational programs to landowners, helping them to voluntarily conserve natural resources.
- Knowledge of aquatic and streamside biology, chemistry (as it pertains to water quality) and natural resource issues particularly as related to salmonid habitat.
- Knowledge of protocols (including SWAMP and associated protocols) for water quality sampling and habitat assessment.
- Knowledge of the principles and practices of fisheries biology and the collection and care of aquatic biological specimens.
- Working knowledge of and interest in production agriculture and natural resource conservation principles and science, specifically soil erosion processes and stream dynamics and habitat enhancement techniques.
- Experience engaging and collaborating with diverse groups and stakeholders, including landowners, growers, industry representatives, researchers, nonprofits, public agencies and citizens.

- Ability to exercise professional judgment in the planning, coordination and implementation of conservation projects and take initiative in fulfilling programmatic and grant related obligations.
- Experience in participating in and leading educational workshops, tours and working effectively to educate the public and landowners on watershed function and conservation issues.
- Proven ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Highly motivated and self-directing with the ability to prioritize and coordinate workload.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, organizational skills and multitasking ability.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Three years professional experience, including two years in the capacity of physical and or biological monitoring and field work and project management.
- Minimum Bachelor's degree in the natural sciences including: ecology, biology, agronomy, planning, environmental science, hydrology, geology, soil science, environmental studies, environmental toxicology.
- Excellent verbal and written skills.
- Ability to prioritize and complete tasks under deadline with minimal supervision.
- A working knowledge of issues related to watershed restoration and water quality in Northern California. Knowledge of the Russian River watershed a plus.
- Proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet and presentation software.

Position information: The Watershed Biologist position is full -time based on a flexible Monday through Friday daytime schedule (40 hours/week). Job related travel is required and some weekend and overnight travel may be necessary. Approved travel expenses incurred while conducting official RCD business will be paid on a reimbursable basis at the current federal rate. A valid California driver's license and proof of insurance is required.

Status: This is an at-will, hourly position.

Rate of Pay: Pay commensurate on qualifications and experience.

Benefits: The Sotoyome RCD provides the following benefits: sick time, two week of vacation, health insurance, retirement, flexible spending account, and 12 paid holidays. Full benefits will be available after completion of a trial period of 3 months.

Application Procedure: Please e-mail a letter of interest, resume and/or list of qualifications along with a list of three references to the Sotoyome RCD Executive Director at: kcheckert@sotoyomered.org. No phone calls please.

Final date for filing: March 15th, 2010 Start Date: Approximately March 22, 2010