

SOTOYOME



RESOURCE  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Conservation Planner Job Opportunity

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 Russian River and the entire Gualala River Watershed. For more information visit: [www.sotoyomercd.org](http://www.sotoyomercd.org).

The Sotoyome RCD is currently seeking applications for a highly motivated *Conservation Planner* to assist in farm conservation planning, and implementation of voluntary projects on agricultural properties to improve water quality, reduce farm runoff and restore habitat. The incumbent, in collaboration with other staff, will be involved in all aspects of conservation projects, including initiating contact with cooperators, identifying conservation needs, conducting field work, developing conservation plans, facilitating permits, overseeing construction/implementation projects, and monitoring their effectiveness.

The incumbent will work on a team to develop, promote and implement conservation management measures and practices that integrate with conventional and organic farm operations, such as range and pasture management, nutrient management, erosion and sediment control and habitat restoration.

Other responsibilities include writing grant proposals and reports, participating on technical advisory committees, presenting at educational and training events and working collaboratively with partner organizations and agencies to provide input on technical documents and reports. The prospective employee shall have demonstrated skills using GIS and GPS technologies.

### **SUMMARY OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Assist in the successful implementation of conservation practices by working closely with RCD program staff and partners. Successful implementation of practices may involve coordination of planning, design, permitting, construction/implementation and monitoring.
- Work with willing landowners in completing Farm Water Quality Plans and Conservation Plans.
- Support conservation outreach efforts to provide technical assistance to Industry-led working group participants for the implementation of conservation practices.
- Assist in permitting and CEQA compliance in the Russian and Gualala River Agricultural Community to assist in the implementation of conservation projects.

- Assist in the implementation and expansion of the RCD's Vineyard Mobile Water Lab Program including performing site evaluations, assisting growers with irrigation system upgrades, and periodic evaluation of program success and refinement of program services.
- Work closely with RCD staff and appropriate partners to develop and conduct workshops for land managers; topics may include storm-water management, erosion control, irrigation and nutrient management, and integrated pest management, among others.
- Track resource conservation issues, which are relevant to the RCDs operations.
- Further develop and expand upon program opportunities in the Russian and Gualala Watersheds. Serve as liaison between the RCD, funders, landowners/operators, and other partnership entities.
- Proactively identify, solicit and expand upon funding opportunities including development of new grant opportunities, development of contracts with granting agencies, administration and management of grant funds including budget tracking, and submission of required progress reports.

#### **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS & EXPERIENCE:**

##### **Required**

- Bachelor's degree in the natural or agricultural sciences with course work in rangeland management, agriculture, soil conservation, and water resources.
- Three or more years of professional experience.
- Ability to develop and implement conservation plans for various program objectives and initiatives.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Experience engaging and collaborating with diverse groups and stakeholders, including landowners, growers, industry representatives, researchers, nonprofits, public agencies and citizens.
- Highly motivated and self-directing with the ability to prioritize and coordinate workload. Strong organizational skills and multi-tasking ability.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Proficient with a variety of computer programs (Excel, Power Point, ArcGIS and GPS).
- Ability to exercise professional judgment in the planning, design and implementation of conservation projects and take initiative in fulfilling programmatic and grant related obligations.
- 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.

##### **Position Information**

The Conservation Planner is a three-quarter to full-time position based on a Monday through Friday daytime schedule. Salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. Benefits package (after 3-months employment) includes paid health and dental. A retirement

plan with employer matching contribution of 1 to 1 up to 3% of gross salary available after 3 months. 13 paid holidays, vacation and sick leave effective after 3 months.

To apply, please submit a resume, letter of interest, and names and phone numbers of at least 3 references to: The Sotoyome Resource Conservation District, 201 B Concourse Blvd., Santa Rosa, CA 95403 c/o Kara Heckert.

The position is open until filled.

The Resource Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer