



*Employment Opportunity for a*

**FORESTRY SPECIALIST**

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**BACKGROUND:**

The Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County (RCD) is an independent, non-regulatory special district tasked with the protection, conservation, and restoration of natural resources through education, information, management, and technical assistance programs. The RCD has ongoing projects that promote natural resource management and address the unique conservation challenges facing greater San Diego County.

The RCD seeks a Forestry Specialist to join a dynamic team of conservation professionals. The Forestry Specialist will work closely with RCD Staff and partners to provide project planning and grant assistance with forest health, fire priority planning, as well as assisting with carbon farming and habitat restoration programs throughout the County. These projects aim to facilitate resiliency against climatic conditions, improve soil health and watershed function, and provide long-term environmental co-benefits.

The Forestry Specialist will assist with the development of regional fire priority plan of fire resiliency projects based on grant funding, regional-scale projects, and stakeholder needs. The Specialist will work closely and collaboratively with the Regional Fire Priority Planning Group, CAL FIRE, the Forest Management Task Force, Fire Safe Councils, tribes, neighboring RCDs within Southern California, and the local NRCS office. Under the direction of the RCD Conservation Manager, the Forestry Specialist will also assist on planning and technical assistance projects and grant development and writing within the agriculture and watershed-based habitat restoration program.

This position is funded through contracts between the RCD and local, state, and federal agencies. This position will report to the RCD Conservation Manager and RCD Executive Director and will also work closely with other RCD Staff to fulfill the mission and the scope of work from the local, state and federal grant contracts, as summarized below:

**SUMMARY OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Assist with the Regional Forest and Fire Capacity Program and CalFIRE Forest Health Grant to work with project planners and local foresters and develop a regional fire priority plan (RFPP) of fire resiliency projects based on grant funding, regional-scale projects, and stakeholder needs.
- Collaborate with partners and stakeholders to develop, fund, and implement priority forest health and fuel reduction projects. Specific tasks include: coordination to develop environmental documentation, project design for implementation, and monitoring activities and management of contracts, budgets, invoicing, and reporting to funders.
- Work closely and collaboratively with partners and stakeholders, including the Regional Fire Priority Planning Group, CAL FIRE, the Forest Management Task Force, Fire Safe Councils, tribes, neighboring RCDs within Southern California, and the local NRCS office.
- Assist with planning and technical assistance projects and grant writing within the forestry, agriculture, and habitat restoration programs.
- Coordination with RCD Staff on grant development and writing proactively identify, solicit and expand upon funding and partnership opportunities for forest health, fire resiliency, carbon farming, and watershed management and habitat restoration programs within San Diego County
- Complete quarterly reports and submit deliverables to meet grant requirements.

- Assist with outreach events and build relationships with land managers and community groups.
- Deliver educational presentations at RCD and statewide partner events.
- Represent the RCD, its partners, and its funders in a positive and pro-active manner.

#### **POSITION REQUIREMENTS:**

- Bachelor's degree or higher in forestry, natural resource management, environmental science, watershed science, or a related conservation field.
- Knowledge of forest ecology, vegetation management, wildfire and watershed conservation, resource management, hydrology and soil science, and native plant and animal communities.
- 2+ years of professional experience related to forestry and/or environmental science.
- Proficiency with ESRI (ArcGIS) and GPS.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team. Experience working collaboratively within partnerships, including landowners, researchers, public agencies, and in the field.
- Highly motivated, organized, and self-directing with the ability to prioritize workload to meet deadlines and reach goals oriented toward fulfilling grant obligations.
- Strong oral and written communication skills.
- Strong computer skills, including for Microsoft, Outlook, and ESRI.
- Physically able to perform field work (climbing in and out of streams, lifting, carrying supplies and equipment, planting, etc.) during all seasons and some inclement weather.
- Creativity, sense of humor, "can do" spirit, collegiality, flexibility, strong desire to learn.
- Valid CA driver's license and current auto insurance.

#### **Preferred**

- Master's degree in environmental science, management, forestry, biology, or related field.
- Familiarity with local threatened and endangered species, including habitat needs.
- Familiarity and understanding of local, state, and federal permits and environmental compliance required for vegetation and wildlife management and restoration projects.
- Experience working with fire, agriculture, watershed, and/or conservation groups.
- Experience writing and managing grants.
- Bilingual in English and Spanish is a plus.

The ideal candidate for the Forestry Specialist position is an experienced forest/fire/agriculture ecologist or related conservation project manager with a background in environmental science and natural resource management. The successful candidate must have working knowledge of forest and watershed ecology, ideally related to Southern California forests, habitats, and plant communities. Experience with conservation planning, overseeing project implementation, field projects, and grant development and administration is essential, as is a demonstrated ability to be self-directed while working collaboratively with RCD Staff, partners, and stakeholders.

The Forestry Specialist is a full-time position (40 hours per week). A competitive salary will be commensurate with experience and qualifications. The RCD also offers a benefits package (after three months probationary employment period) with a paid health insurance compensation, retirement contributions, telephone stipend, as well as twelve paid holidays and two weeks paid vacation.

To apply, please submit a cover letter, resume, and references to the Resource Conservation District of Greater San Diego County, c/o Dr. Chandra Richards at [chandra.richards@rcdsandiego.org](mailto:chandra.richards@rcdsandiego.org) with "Forestry Specialist position" in the subject line. For additional information, please contact the RCD by phone at 619-562-0096 or visit our website at <http://www.rcdsandiego.org>.

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICANTS: Position is open until filled. To be considered in the first round of applications, please submit materials by March 15, 2020.**

*The RCD is an equal opportunity employer. We considered qualified applicants for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, age, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, genetic information, medical condition, disability, marital status, or protected veteran status.*