

Wasco County Soil & Water Conservation District

Job Description

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| Job Title: | Seasonal Weed Control Technician |
| Employment Status: | At Will Employee |
| Employment Type: | Seasonal, Full-Time (No Benefits) |
| Reports To: | District Manager (Daily work activities coordinated by the CWMA Coordinator or the Wasco County SWCD Weed Lead, depending on the needs of the day/season) |
| Location: | USDA Service Center in The Dalles, OR, servicing all areas of Wasco County including the Lower Deschutes Cooperative Weed Management Area and USFS National Forest Lands |
| Compensation: | \$20 per hour |

GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES: This is a limited duration position contingent on grant funding, which is secured for the 2024 season. Assist in preventing the establishment and spread of noxious and nuisance weeds in accordance with County, State, and Federal Weed Laws. Perform other duties as assigned.

SUPERVISION RECEIVED: Works under the direct and indirect supervision of the District Manager, with daily work activities coordinated by either the CWMA Coordinator or the Wasco County SWCD Weed Lead, depending on the needs of the day/season. Report all concerns directly to the supervisor.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES:

1. Implement weed control methods, including chemical, biological, and manual removal of weeds.
2. Survey and treat noxious weeds within the Deschutes River corridor, National Forest lands within Wasco County, and throughout Wasco County as part of a team.
3. Measure, mix, and apply herbicides, ensuring proper formulations and timing.
4. Document all work performed daily, including location, weather conditions, products and rates, equipment used, and timing.
5. Maintain and operate spray equipment and vehicles, including minor mechanical work, wiring, plumbing, and calibration for proper spray applications.
6. Utilize ArcGIS and other mapping software for treatment and inventorying of noxious weed infestations.
7. Conduct surveys by vehicle and on foot to locate new weed infestations and determine the success of prior control methods. Accurately document findings on maps.
8. Participate in early-detection/rapid response operations within the Deschutes River corridor, including multiple overnight camping and whitewater rafting expeditions to access high-priority areas.
9. Conduct EDRR work throughout Wasco County and weed control on USFS lands this season.

10. Establish biocontrol treatments, mechanically remove invasive species, and spot-spray invasive plants in rangeland ecosystems, both riparian and upland habitats.
11. Participate in long-term vegetative inventory/monitoring projects, mapping and inventorying priority areas.
12. Obtain and maintain required State licenses for herbicide applications.
13. Perform other related duties as assigned.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:

1. **Ability to:** work closely with other agency personnel, cooperators and partners; communicate effectively orally and in writing; deal tactfully with the public; establish and maintain effective working relationships with superiors and peers; comprehend and follow instructions; make arithmetic and measuring calculations accurately at an acceptable speed; prioritize concurrent demands; work independently; maintain a courteous, helpful manner; maintain accurate and complete records; identify and report abnormalities encountered; think outside the box to incorporate new technologies for treatment and inventorying of noxious weed infestations.
2. **Knowledge of:** chemicals used in weed control and their application; the necessary safety precautions used when applying herbicides; various types of weed problems found in cropping systems, rangeland and roadsides; plant identification; state and county noxious weed laws; current farming practices; application equipment, its use, maintenance and repair; GIS software for mapping and monitoring invasive species data.
3. **Skills in:** operation and maintenance of spraying equipment; operation and maintenance of off-road vehicles; mixing of herbicides for applications; using keys, manuals, and other guides to identify native and non-native plants in multiple life stages; operating, calibrating and maintaining herbicide delivery systems from backpack sprayers to RTV mounted handgun sprayers; operating and maintaining motorized and non-motorized equipment, such as weed eaters, chainsaws, backpack sprayers, gas-powered pumps, trailers and RTV's.
4. **Special qualifications:** ability to obtain State Public Pesticide Apprentice Applicators License within 1 month of employment. Valid driver's license with clean driving record. Comfortable working in an arid, remote and rugged environment.

EDUCATION AND/OR EXPERIENCE:

High school diploma or equivalent; college degree in a related field such as agronomy, crop science, plant taxonomy, range management, soils or weed control is preferred; experience in herbicide applications; OR any satisfactory combination of experience, education or training that demonstrates the ability to perform the duties described.

WORK ENVIRONMENT:

The work environment is mainly outdoors with some indoors, based on seasonal demands. Exposure to noisy areas, variable temperatures, extreme heat or cold, various chemicals, noxious fumes, insect stings, snakes, dampness, dust, pollen, machinery, traffic, specialized equipment and fuel. Protective equipment may be required for some job functions and will be supplied.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Job requires sitting, standing, walking, hiking, lifting up to 50 pounds (daily) and up to 100 pounds (weekly or less), use of handheld equipment, manual dexterity, visual acuity, ability to adapt to a changing work environment.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:

Meet Wasco County SWCD hiring requirements, including a criminal background check.

EVALUATION:

The Technician's work will be evaluated regularly by the District Manager, with a formal review conducted halfway through the season.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume and three professional references to dana.woods@wascoswcd.org. Applications are due by March 28, 2025.
