

RESTORATION ECOLOGIST

Position Description

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The Ventura County Resource Conservation District's (VCRCD) mission is to collaborate with landowners, government agencies, and other willing partners to facilitate the conservation and restoration of Ventura County's natural resources. VCRCD is a special district (District) of the State of California and is primarily funded by grants. VCRCD is one of 99 RCDs in California and belongs to the California Association of RCDs (CARCD). VCRCD is governed by a board of seven Directors appointed to four-year terms. Directors must be landowners or agents of landowners residing within the District. Please visit our website at vcrcd.org for more information about VCRCD.

IDEAL QUALIFICATIONS AND JOB DESCRIPTION

VCRCD is seeking a versatile restoration professional to fill the position of **Restoration Ecologist**. The ideal candidate will have worked on diverse multi-beneficial ecological restoration and conservation projects in the natural communities of the South Coast Ecoregion. Successful candidates will be able to demonstrate: experience planning and implementing restoration projects, a history of fieldwork, especially biological surveying and monitoring, and the ability to identify and distinguish native and non-native flora and fauna. The **Restoration Ecologist** will assist VCRCD's staff with day-to-day operations with an emphasis on identifying and pursuing opportunities to develop restoration projects for the District. Duties may include but are not limited to: collecting and evaluating data to fulfill current and future grant deliverables; collaborating with partners to develop and write new grants; managing assigned projects and programs, and fostering relationships by representing VCRCD at local and regional meetings and events.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- Commitment to the mission and resource priorities articulated in VCRCD's Strategic Plan.
- Bachelor's degree in botany, biology, forestry, ecology, environmental science or related field with 3-5 years of post-degree experience or Master's degree in one of the same areas.
- Experience in wetland, riparian, and/or upland ecology, hydrology, soil and forestry science, plant taxonomy, wildlife ecology, and/or environmental and watershed planning.
- Working knowledge of major state and federal agencies and major regulatory frameworks as they pertain to applying for grants and submitting project applications or reports.
- Exceptional verbal and written communication skills, highly proficient with standard document and spreadsheet software, and experience using spatial imagery platforms for mapping.
- Strong partnership-building skills - ability and desire to work with a diverse group of people, including state, federal, tribal, and non-government personnel, private landowners and other local stakeholders, and the general public.
- Adaptive and creative problem solver, resourceful and self-motivated - but team-oriented.
- Ability to adapt to wide-ranging and often changeable tasks and the willingness to occasionally work long hours.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Collect field data and conduct field visits on a variety of land-use types and prepare and review environmental documents and reports.
- Address complex issues related to habitat restoration, environmental regulations, watershed planning, ecological monitoring, forest land assessments, and natural resource management.
- Actively engage in writing research, planning, and implementation grants to provide the funding needed to continue and expand the work of the District.
- Prepare reports for local, state, and federal agencies, the Executive Director, and/or the VCRC D Board of Directors on projects and program progress as needed.
- Prepare correspondences to involved parties and stakeholders, as needed or as directed by the Executive Director and/or the VCRC D Board of Director's.
- Attend meetings and hearings on matters related to District programs, projects, grants, and/or general operations at the District's request.
- Promote the VCRC D's mission and services within the community, among landowners, partners, local agencies and organizations, and elected officials.
- Contribute to VCRC D's short- and long-term organizational plans and the VCRC D Strategic Plans.
- Fulfill any additional duties that may be deemed essential to the function of VCRC D by the Executive Director and/or the VCRC D Board of Directors.

COMPENSATION

Permanent Hourly (Position is funding dependent)

Part Time (24-32 hours weekly) probationary period, 6-month maximum

Full Time (32-40 hours weekly) staff position thereafter, with benefits

Salary Range: \$28-\$30 per hour depending on experience

BENEFITS

Health, dental, vision, and a Simple IRA with matching contributions. VCRC D provides unemployment, workers' compensation, Social Security, and Medicare at the going rate. State Disability (SDI) is paid by the employee.

OTHER

Mileage: If VCRC D vehicle is not available, mileage will be paid for personal vehicle usage at the current Federal rate. Must have and must maintain a clean DMV record.

HOW TO APPLY

Email cover letter, resume, and writing sample (preferably from a grant application) to debra.gillis@vcrd.org. Applications are being accepted immediately and will be processed as they arrive.