



Soil Conservation Technician

Position Announcement



The Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District (HLVRCD) is accepting applications for the position of Soil Conservation Technician. Funding for this position was secured under a grant to assist the local Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office, located in Susanville, CA, with their Farm Bill programs. Therefore, this is a **one (1) year, full time position** that may be extended to additional years if additional grant funding is secured. This “at will” position includes paid leave and is supervised by the HLVRCD District Manager.

The Soil Conservation Technician provides assistance to landowners and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) to implement the NRCS’s Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The CSP is a voluntary cost-share program for landowners to improve conservation practices on private and other working land.

PRIMARY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Outreach:

- Conducts outreach and education to potential CSP enrollees, the public and other local jurisdictions who may be interested in the program.
- Assists with other public information activities. As appropriate, conducts practice demonstrations, discusses conservation practices on tours, presents material on practice application and specifications at community or contractor meetings and writes news stories relative to the application of conservation practices.
- Establishes professional working relationships with current and potential enrollees, local government agencies and others.
- Collaborates and looks for opportunities to establish partnerships in support of the CSP program.

Program Recruitment and Enrollment of Clients:

- Advises landowners on eligibility prerequisites and conditions that must be satisfied to qualify for program acceptance and payments.
- Advises client on application procedure and answer relevant questions.

Assessment and Planning:

- Gathers preliminary resource inventory data and information on the physical features of agricultural and other natural resource sites.
- Computes and plots engineering notes, prepares field sketches and drawings, selects standard designs, modifying or adjusting them to site conditions.
- Advises landowners, operators, and contractors on the application and maintenance of conservation practices.
- Assesses the nature and severity of conservation problems and evaluates a variety of elements such as the cost of practice installation, soil conditions, topography, cropping practices, relationship to adjoining land units, and the feasibility of a wide range of equipment operations.
- Prepares assessments and conservation technical assistance plans and basic conservation plans.
- Explains cost-share payment procedures to landowners, inspects proposed sites, determines need and feasibility of conservation practices, advises on-site selections.

Contract Implementation and Monitoring:

- Performs layout work, and supervises construction of practices for which the NRCS has technical responsibility.
- Checks completed practices to determine that specifications are met. Completes field sheets and recommends acceptability of completed practices to the supervisor for final certification.
- Establishes and/or carries out a follow-up schedule to check progress made in carrying out conservation plans.

Computer Applications:

- Utilize computer applications (e.g., WORD, Excel, NRCS's Conservation Assessment Resource Tool) to document and complete work

Field Work/Travel:

- Field work and occasional overnight travel is required for this position.

Conditions of Employment:

- Must possess and maintain a valid state motor vehicle operator's license for the type of vehicle(s) operated.
- Subject to satisfactory adjudication of background investigation and/or fingerprint check.

QUALIFICATIONS

Applicants must meet the following qualifications defined below:

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills.
- Developing and maintaining constructive relationships with internal and external individuals and organizations.

PLUS:

- Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study leading to a bachelor's degree with major study in range management, agriculture, forestry or a subject-matter field directly related to the position. **You must submit transcripts as proof of any claimed education.**

OR

- A combination of direct or related work experience:
 - o Range, agriculture and forest plant identification
 - o Field inventory, data collection and analysis
 - o Applying conservation practices on the ground (e.g., water efficiency improvements, soil erosion prevention)
 - o Computer programs and applications (WORD, Excel, other)

AND

- College courses in the field of range management, agriculture, forestry or a subject-matter field directly related to the position. **You must submit transcripts as proof of any claimed education.**

Salary Range: \$20.50 to \$22.50/hour Depending on Experience and Education.

To Apply: Send cover letter, resume with three professional references, and transcripts to Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District, USDA Service Center, 170 Russell Avenue Suite C, Susanville CA 96130 or send via email to Andrea Stuemky, District Manager, at astuemky@honeylakevalleyrcd.us.

- Resume, or separate document, must clearly describe your experience and specifically address the qualifications listed above.

Application Deadline: Open until filled.

It is the policy of the Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District to provide equal employment opportunities to all people without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, age, sexual orientation, or any other classification protected by law, and to promote this policy through a program of affirmative personnel action.