

The Association of Florida Conservation Districts has 1 full-time openings for Grazing Specialists to provide technical assistance to farmers and ranchers with range management and soil and water conservation activities while assisting in the planning of conservation practices on ranches and farms. These positions will work directly under the Florida USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The position will be based in the Lake City NRCS Field Office. The anticipated start date for the positions is November 1, 2024.

Duties will include:

- Develop resource conservation management plans with ranch operators and other land and resource decision-makers with an interdisciplinary approach to solutions to protect aquatic species and other species of concern.
- Work with operators, ranchers, and landowners to make range site and condition inventories, analyze ranch resources, recommend varieties of forage, and assist with calculating livestock feed and forage balance.
- Work with cooperators to implement plans, determine success and failures of established practices and give assistance in establishment of supplemental practices.
- Monitor and document trends and changes to natural community and working land vegetation, soil, wildlife and water in response to applied management practices.
- Provide assistance in the establishment of supplemental practices; monitor and document changes in plant communities, rangeland, vegetative cover, and production and soil surface condition resulting from applied grazing management systems.
- Attend meetings of various rural, urban, and tribal groups to explain NRCS programs, program measures, and to develop competence and confidence in working with people.
- Coordinate outreach and travel to visit private lands
- Respond to land conservation/stewardship inquiries from private landowners, community groups, public agencies and the general public.
- Contribute project articles and updates to newsletters, electronic bulletins, website content and annual reports and other communications materials related to this project.
- Advance and maintain skills, education, and knowledge of best practices that are relevant to the job description.
- Document, track, and report all grant expenses, receipts, expenditures and deliverables quarterly for grant management.

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree (advanced degree preferred) in a field which demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to do the work of the position (natural resource planning/management, biological sciences, agricultural sciences, rangeland sciences, geography, etc. with at least 20 hours in animal sciences and/or botany).
 - Familiarity with native grassland, pasture, and wildlife habitat in the Southeast United States, with a working knowledge of major soils and local conservation resource needs.
 - Familiarity with Florida landscapes and communities is preferred, particularly an ability to work with rural and agricultural landowners.
 - Prior experience with writing grazing management plans.
 - Experience communicating effectively with a variety of stakeholders, including local landowners and agency partners.
 - A self-starter with experience managing multiple priorities, with assignments sometimes coming from a number of sources.
 - Must have excellent computer skills – Word, Excel, including experience and demonstrated proficiency with GPS and GIS
 - Must have enthusiasm and experience working with diverse groups of people in an educational and outreach capacity.
 - Must be willing to travel and meet with landowners – travel expenses will be reimbursed.
 - Must be willing and physically able to work in the field and perform site visits.
 - Must be able to work in a fast-paced environment to meet established goals and deadlines.
 - Must have a valid driver's license.
- Salary will be based on experience and qualifications with a projected starting base salary range of \$70,000.00, as well as a health insurance stipend per month to be paid through salary. The Association of Florida Conservation Districts provides employees with 7 days paid sick leave, 7 days paid annual leave, and 11 Federal holidays. Employee will be eligible for annual performance bonus consideration after 1 year of employment. This is a full-time position with secure grant funding for 2 full years, with the potential for renewal.

To apply, submit a cover letter, resume and three references by **October 2, 2024**, to: charlene.meeks@afcdf.com.