

STATEMENT OF WORK

Working Title: Natural Resources Specialist
Announcement Type: Open Competitive
Full-time (40 hours/week)
Job Location: Marianna, FL
Closing Date: July 14, 2023

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides America's farmers and ranchers with financial and technical assistance to voluntarily put conservation on the ground, not only helping the environment but agricultural operations too. The agency administers the NRCS Farm Bill Programs and provides technical assistance for the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to carry out its mission.

OVERVIEW AND OBJECTIVES:

NRCS has a need for a Natural Resources Specialist to coordinate and provide support for CRP and EQIP activities in NRCS Florida Administrative Area 1 (see map on pg. 2). The Specialist will serve as the primary point of contact for CRP in the state and provide technical assistance to support EQIP activities.

MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Coordinate NRCS Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) duties. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Serve as NRCS primary point of contact for NRCS Farm Bill Programs
 - b. Coordinate CRP activities along with Farm Bill Programs between the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and NRCS
 - c. Manage CRP workload and Farm Bill Programs
 - d. Conduct conservation planning, design, and certification for all new CRP contracts.
 - e. Perform quality assurance spot checks on conservation plans
 - f. Assist with Food Security Act compliance spot checks.
 - g. Coordinate with the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and NRCS staff in Area 1 to identify CRP program needs, Farm Bill Programs and workload.
 - h. Other duties as assigned
2. Provide EQIP program assistance. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. Conduct conservation planning, design, and certification for EQIP contracts.
 - b. Ensure program policy is followed through quality assurance reviews, spot checks, and training
 - c. Other duties as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

1. Documented training and/or experience with forestry operations in northwest Florida:
 - a) Experience with tree planting and establishment
 - b) Collection of statistically sound field data
 - c) Mid-rotation management of established pine stands
2. Documented training and/or experience with Agronomic/Grazing Systems:
 - a) Establishment of native and non-native herbaceous vegetation
 - b) Familiarity with common local agronomic practices
 - c) Familiarity with common local grazing practices
3. Demonstrated ability to learn and utilize computer software
4. Demonstrated organizational skills to plan and organize

5. Ability to communicate clearly: orally and in writing
6. A valid driver's license is required
7. Limited overnight travel may occur. Most travel would not involve overnight accommodations.
8. An ability to perform in-field tasks in adverse weather is required.

Desired:

1. A degree in the Agricultural, Animal, Biological, or Silvicultural Sciences is preferred, but not required. Recent graduates are encouraged to apply.

COMPENSATION: \$64,649 for a 12-month salaried position.

TO APPLY: Please email a cover letter, resume and references to the following email address: charlene.meeks@afcdf.com.

