

Whatcom Conservation District

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Farm Planner- Resource Specialist

<p>SALARY RANGE and BENEFITS:</p> <p>\$42,888 – \$57,480 per year</p> <p>Eleven paid holidays, personal & family medical benefits, annual & sick leave. All District positions are funded through legislative appropriations and subject to the “employee at will doctrine”.</p>	<p>HOURS:</p> <p>40 hours per week, Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm, with occasional evening or weekend meetings/events or multiday overnight trainings.</p>
---	---

Who We Are

The Whatcom Conservation District is a legal subdivision of Washington State government whose enabling statute is RCW Chapter 89.08 et seq. Our mission is to assist land managers with their conservation choices. In particular, Whatcom County is home to about 37% of all commercial livestock in Puget Sound. It is our goal to provide them with excellent technical assistance and information. The District is non-regulatory, which means that landowner engagement with the District is voluntary and incentive-based. Its employees are recognized for their professionalism, expertise and accomplishments.

Scope of Responsibility

The District is looking for an experienced and enthusiastic individual to join our team to provide technical assistance and outreach to livestock operations. The ideal candidate wants to help our local nondairy agriculture operators be successful while protecting natural resources.

This position provides technical assistance and education to all manner of farms with the goals of protecting water quality while improving the operation. Assistance typically includes site specific resource evaluations of soils, plants and animals to develop client-driven conservation farm plans. The Planner may also help landowners with water conservation or irrigation management plans.

As a part of the District’s outreach and education, the Planner will help to coordinate and present at a variety of digital and in person events and workshops on conservation farm planning and farm best management practices. The Planner will professionally represent the District with passion, enthusiasm, and integrity.

This position requires an individual with strong farm-based natural resource management knowledge/ experience, in combination with a passion to help farmers and landowners with their stewardship goals. The ability to provide exceptional customer service, earn the trust of the public, and work cooperatively with a diverse population is essential to this position. The ideal candidate has exceptional communication and organizational skills, good attention to detail, and a flexible and helpful personality.

The Planner manages a busy workload. They coordinates initial site visits with new clients, plans follow-up visits, manages the delivery of farm conservation plans and facilitate other

technical and financial assistance. The Planner works in partnership with farmers and landowners so that both the District's goals and the client's goals are addressed. This employee must demonstrate the ability to maintain accurate, detailed, and professional reports and records.

This Planner will join a Conservation District team of seventeen staff and will focus on providing applied conservation technical assistance to landowners and farmers. Each employee at the Conservation District is encouraged to seek continued learning opportunities, develop their individual technical knowledge, and explore strategies for how conservation practices and services may be improved. The successful candidate will participate in a three month training orientation process. The Planner will be trained in and expected to plan using the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Nine Step Conservation Planning Process.

Job Responsibilities/Duties

- Conduct farm resource inventories, and assemble data to prepare farm conservation plans.
- Provide information, education and assistance to farmers, landowners, and the general public on natural resource management practices.
- Assist farmers and landowners in complying with state and local regulations such as the Critical Areas Ordinance.
- Develop maps using the GIS system for use in analyzing various issues and providing guidance to farmers and landowners.
- Communicate with farmers and landowners interested in District programs and promote conservation practices that are of benefit to the farmers/ landowners and the environment.
- Support District activities at public outreach events, including farm tours, workshops, fairs, festivals; this includes some evening and weekend work.
- Write educational fact sheets and articles, prepare and conduct presentations, and assist with the development of publications as needed.
- Provide exceptional customer service to a wide range of farmers and landowners and other technical and conservation experts.
- Attend public meetings as a representative of the District.
- Continue to improve professional skills by attending training sessions, workshops, working with mentors and coaches, and other methods as identified in a professional development plan.
- Prepare reports documenting activities, program progress, and accomplishments as directed.
- Perform all duties in a timely, courteous, and professional manner.
- Safely and properly use and maintain district vehicles, office and field equipment and supplies.
- Position requires working outside in inclement weather, walking on uneven ground and lifting up to 50lbs.
- Perform tasks and activities associated with District programs and projects as assigned, including office and administrative tasks in support of assigned projects.

Qualifications

- ✓ Bachelors Degree in natural/ environmental science, agriculture, agronomy, environmental planning, range management or closely related technical/scientific/natural resources field or a degree from an accredited institution in combination with experience

in natural resource management.

- ✓ A minimum of two years of directly related professional experience required. A master's degree in closely related field may substitute for one year of related work experience.
- ✓ Awareness/ understanding of farmer and landowner conservation interests, local natural resource concerns, and conservation practices associated with livestock management and pasture production, regulations/ permits associated with farming activities, and approaches to promoting voluntary conservation.
- ✓ Licensed to operate a motor vehicle in the State of Washington or can obtain a valid Washington State Driver's License.
- ✓ Proficiency with computers to write reports, track progress, and prepare and record field and technical data using Microsoft Office Suite (MS Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint).

Application Details

Annual Salary: \$42,888 – \$57,480 per year, compensation package is dependent on qualifications and experience.

Benefits: The District offers a comprehensive benefits package which includes paid vacation and holidays, medical and dental, support for trainings, and Simple Retirement plan.

Application period

Open until filled. First review of applications submitted by March 12, 2021.

To apply

Interested persons should email Corina Cheever: 1) a letter of application describing their work experience in relation to the desired/preferred qualifications, knowledge and skills, 2) a current resume, and 3) the names, addresses and phone numbers of three professional references.

Corina Cheever
Resource Coordinator, Farm Planning Program
Whatcom Conservation District
6975 Hannegan Road,
Lynden, WA 98264
ccheever@whatcomcd.org

To learn more about Whatcom Conservation District, visit the website at www.whatcomcd.org

Whatcom Conservation District is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, military, genetic information, ancestry, marital status, age, citizenship or any other basis prohibited by law in any of its policies or programs.