

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Montana Rangelands Partnership

Area Resource Specialist - Range Technician

Application Deadline: October 27, 2017 at 5 p.m. (MST)

Location: Lewistown, Montana

Anticipated Start Date: December '17/January '18

Overview: The Montana Rangelands Partnership, a collaborative public-private partnership among numerous agricultural and conservation organizations in Montana, is seeking a full-time Range Technician position to conduct range planning and monitoring activities related to the Partnership. This position will be based out of Lewistown, Montana. The Partnership is led by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM), the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Montana State University Extension, and the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). Principal duties include working one-on-one with ranchers to help them develop and refine their grazing management plans and rangeland monitoring practices; working with Partnership leadership and partners to streamline monitoring protocols across private and public lands; and provide outreach to ranchers about available range conservation programs. The incumbent will be an employee of SWCDM with supervision provided by the Montana Rangelands Partnership's leadership team.

NOTE: This is a full-time position funded through spring 2019 with possibility for extension dependent on funding.

Duties:

- Provide technical assistance (grazing plans, range monitoring, and outreach) and guidance to landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations (NGOs) and others. Training will be provided by NRCS, MSU Extension, DNRC, and other partners as necessary.
- Establish monitoring sites and conduct monitoring of rangelands in conjunction with agency personnel and private landowners, while building partnerships to encourage continued monitoring in the future.
- Coordinate and participate in field work activities for grazing management plans and monitoring practices on private lands with ranchers, and with ranchers and agency personnel on public lands.
- Promote the mission and services of the Montana Rangelands Partnership program, and assist in maintaining program website, quarterly newsletter, and related outreach as needed.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge Skills and Abilities:

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners, office staff, agency partners, and conservation organizations.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision and with diverse clientele, self-starter.
- Ability to conduct independent field work in remote areas.
- Physical ability to: stand and walk for extended periods of time over rough terrain; lift and move material weighing up to 50 pounds; work in all types of weather conditions.
- Experience with accepted rangeland inventory procedures.
- Knowledge of range science in the Northern Great Plains, including the ability to develop grazing plans that include range management and monitoring objectives relevant to Montana's rangelands.
- Ability to organize and synthesize collected vegetation and soils data.
- Proficiency in using basic computer software (MS Word and Excel) and ability to learn new programs.
- Excellent verbal/written communication and organizational skills.
- Valid driver's license.
- A minimum qualification guideline for this position is a Bachelor of Science degree in Rangeland Science or similar from an accredited university.

Training and Experience Guideline: Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Annual Salary: \$37,000 – \$40,000, depending upon experience and qualifications

To Apply: Send a resume, three references with contact information, and responses to the following:

1. Describe your experience working with landowners.
2. What are your philosophies on natural resource conservation and range management in the 21st century?
3. How do you self-motivate your work activities when working alone?
4. What do you see as the biggest issues facing natural resources, and particularly rangelands, in Montana? What role do you see this position having with these issues?
5. Please describe other skill sets you have that you think would be valuable to this position and the Montana Rangelands Partnership.

Email: Send application materials to [hiring@macdnet.org](mailto: hiring@macdnet.org).

The employee benefit package includes all state holidays, annual and sick leave, a health insurance stipend, AAA membership, a cell phone stipend, and a retirement plan.

For more information about this position and other openings available, visit: www.swcdm.org/hiring

SWCDM is an equal opportunity employer.