

## CONSERVATION SPECIALIST

### FUNCTION OF THE JOB

Under supervision, to perform professional level work in soil and water conservation in one or more of the following areas: erosion and sediment control, stormwater management, animal waste management, farmland preservation, watershed management, environmental education, and/or non-point pollution control; and performs other duties as required.

### CHARACTERISTIC DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Contacts landowners, assesses soil and water conservation problems, informs landowners of conservation regulations, recommends appropriate solutions, and develops agreements with landowners to participate in soil and water conservation programs.
2. Develops and designs soil and water conservation plans and practices, provides technical expertise in the implementation and installation of the plan or practice, and follows up with landowners to ensure continued compliance with the plan or practice.
3. Investigates all funding sources for soil and water conservation practices; develops and administers the cost-share agreement (s) with landowners.
4. Performs field inspections of construction projects to ensure that the proper erosion control and stormwater management measures are in place.
5. Conducts detailed field inventories to determine erosion and non-point source pollution problems and to identify wetland and conservancy districts.
6. Implements a comprehensive non-point education program.
7. Enforces agricultural non-point pollution performance standards compliance on farms.
8. Participates in the annual bidding process and enforcement of non-point standards.
9. Administers cropland rental agreements on County-owned cropland.
10. Analyzes inventory data and assists with the development of area wide soil conservation and water quality plans.
11. Provides technical information and assistance to landowners, contractors, other units of government, and the public regarding soil and water conservation and quality issues.
12. Plans, coordinates, prepares, and presents training and education programs in soil and water conservation principles, practices and methods to landowners, contractors, schools, teachers, youth groups and the public.
13. Develops educational materials such as brochures, newsletters, displays, and press releases; updates web site information; and coordinates departmental educational efforts.
14. May perform technical review of soil and water conservation plans submitted for construction projects.
15. Coordinates and maintains water quality monitoring network including establishing sites, training volunteers, equipment purchase, and data analysis.
16. Maintains accurate and complete records; maintains computerized land conservation data base information; and prepares and presents oral and written reports and recommendations.
17. Establishes and maintains effective working relationships with landowners, contractors, other units of government, and the public.
18. Performs other duties as required.

## QUALIFICATIONS

### Essential Knowledge and Abilities

1. Working knowledge of the current principles, practices, techniques, and methods of land and water resources management, including soil and water conservation, stormwater management, and erosion control.
2. Working knowledge of state and county programs regarding natural resource management.
3. Working knowledge of soil surveying, engineering, and technical design principles and techniques.
4. Working knowledge of the identifying characteristics of various types of soil and vegetation.
5. Working knowledge of the principles and practices of environmental education.
6. Some knowledge of basic agricultural practices, including fertilizers, insecticides, and herbicides, and how they are used.
7. Ability to analyze, review, and interpret construction plans, soil, wetland, and topographical maps, aerial photos, ordinances, and regulations.
8. Ability to identify soil and water conservation problems and develop appropriate solutions.
9. Ability to secure facts through investigations and inspections and to effectively analyze and interpret them.
10. Ability to perform geographic information systems mapping functions.
11. Ability to perform water quality monitoring tests.
12. Ability to make complex mathematical computations and to use surveying and computer equipment.
13. Ability to utilize word processing, spreadsheet, and database computer applications.
14. Ability to maintain accurate and complete records and to prepare and present reports and recommendations.
15. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing and with the use of presentation software.
16. Ability to conduct fieldwork in varying weather conditions and physical terrains.
17. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.
18. Ability to effectively interact with sensitivity with persons from diverse cultural, socioeconomic, educational, racial, ethnic, and professional backgrounds, and persons of all ages and lifestyles.

### Training and Experience

1. Graduation from a recognized college or university with a bachelor's degree in soil and water conservation, soil or agricultural science, environmental or land use planning, natural resources management, environmental education or a closely related field.

OR

2. Graduation from a recognized technical school with an associate degree in one of the above areas, plus two (2) years of professional work experience in one of the above areas.