



Watershed Health Field Technician

General Description

Under the primary direction of the Forestry Project Manager, the Watershed Health Field Technician will complete tasks related to the Big Thompson Watershed Coalition (BTWC) Forest Health and Stream Restoration programs. The Watershed Health Field Technician is responsible for carrying out tasks required for the implementation of forest and stream restoration projects, including collecting forestry inventory data, marking treatment prescriptions, and installing in-stream low-tech process-based restoration structures. The Watershed Health Field Technician will be shared between the Forestry Project Manager and the Stream Restoration Project Manager. In-field tasks include but are not limited to hiking over rugged terrain in remote areas, using Avenza and/or similar GIS applications for in-field navigation, using Avenza and/or similar GIS applications for field data collection, sediment cross sections, site assessments, using common forestry tools such as clinometer, DBH tape, rangefinder laser, etc. Additional position tasks may include GIS data management, working with Forest Vegetation Simulator (FVS), and potential landowner communications. On occasion, this position will assist in the monitoring and implementation of stream restoration projects.

We are looking for someone studying in the field of natural resource management, conservation, forestry, or a similar field. Preference will be given to applicants with prior fieldwork experience. The position will require knowledge and experience in field data collection, work and travel in remote areas, and the ability to hike long distances and work long days outside in the elements. In addition, we are looking for a highly organized and motivated applicant who can take direction and work independently. Experience using forestry field equipment is not required; on-site training will be provided.

Job Responsibilities

Primary duties include, but are not limited to, the following:

Field Work (100% time; 80% forest health, 20% stream health):

- Assist with collecting forestry inventory data, under the supervision of Forestry Project Manager.
- Translate written instruction from forestry treatment prescriptions to execute tree marking.
- Hike over steep, uneven terrain in remote areas.
- Work up to 10 hours a day in forested settings.
- Navigate in remote settings using GIS applications (i.e. Avenza, Field Maps) with no cell service.
- Record field data using GIS applications (i.e. Avenza, Field Maps).
- Take direction and work independently.
- Have situational awareness of potential hazards.
- Assist Forestry Project Manager with vehicle transport.
- Interface with landowners in a compassionate and professional manner, if necessary.
- Perform spatial data management, under the supervision of Forestry Project Manager.
- Perform simulated runs in FVS, if necessary, under the supervision of Forestry Project Manager.
- Assist in project management, monitoring (sediment staking, wetland delineation, flow measurements, photography, etc.) and implementation of stream restoration projects under the supervision of the Stream Restoration Project Manager.



Desired Qualifications:

- Currently enrolled in or completed an education program in forestry, watershed science, natural resource management, or a similar field.
- Fieldwork experience in natural resource management, conservation, forestry, or a similar field.
- Experience working outdoors in various weather conditions and on difficult terrain.
- Ability to express compassion in addressing resident/landowner issues and respect requests concerning property access, sharing digital media, etc.
- Interest in learning about watershed conservation and forest health/wildfire risk reduction programs.
- Ability to resolve challenges or conflicts that may arise in the field and with project partners.
- Well-organized and efficient self-starter who is detail-oriented and adaptable and can manage both routine and complex tasks simultaneously.
- Ability to work independently, establish work priorities, and manage time effectively.
- Ability to use personal cell phone for BTWC work matters.
- Ability to maintain a flexible schedule from week to week, dependent on weather and organizational obligations.
- Ability to drive personal vehicle to work sites with gas reimbursement.

Working Conditions:

Work is performed inside and outside both day and night, under varying and extreme weather conditions, and could include frequent driving of employee's personal vehicle. Field conditions will include steep, unstable terrain, proximity to fast-moving water, proximity to highway traffic, and typical conditions associated with travel in the foothills and plains of the Rocky Mountain region. Work includes but is not limited to exposure to sun, noise, dust, fumes, smoke, gases, and oils, moving vehicles, lifting and carrying up to 50 pounds, bending, stooping, squatting, crawling, kneeling, pulling, pushing, reaching overhead and above shoulders, use of both hand and fingers, climbing stairs and ladders, walking, standing, and sitting for extended periods of time. Coordination of eyes, hands, legs, and body is needed. Must have correctable near and far vision, ability to hear, speak, and write. Work also includes the ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions, and the ability to utilize communication equipment.

Big Thompson Watershed Coalition is an Equal Opportunity Employer and no otherwise-qualified individual shall be subject to discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion or religious affiliation, sex, familial status, age, genetics, disability, or national origin in any phase of employment for this position. Further, the work to be performed under this contract is subject to the requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, 12 U.S.C. 1701u (Section 3) which states that employment and other economic opportunities generated by HUD assistance shall, to the greatest extent feasible, be directed to low and very low-income persons, particularly persons who are recipients of HUD assistance for housing.

Salary and Position Details:

The position being offered is for a part-time, seasonal position at 8-32 hours per week for \$22/hr. The start date of this position will be determined based on interested applicant's availability; preferred start date is mid-April or early May. The position will last until 9/1/2024, with the possibility of an extension through the fall. Schedule flexibility is desired; hours per week and length of term are contingent on fieldwork needs, weather, and unexpected



circumstances that may extend or shorten the field season. Employees are not eligible for health, vacation, or sick leave benefits. The position is located at various field sites throughout the Big Thompson watershed; carpool meeting locations will be in Fort Collins or Loveland, Colorado.

Please send resumes to Zoe Schapira at zoe.schapira@bigthompson.co by March 22, 2024.