

Conservancy Steward– Job Description

Overview

The Upper Salinas – Las Tablas Resource Conservation District (USLTRCD) is a local, nonprofit that works with the local community to provide technical assistance and resources for natural resource issues in San Luis Obispo County. USLTRCD is seeking an experienced Conservancy Steward to manage our Willow Creek Conservancy.

Conservancy Steward Job Description

Position Title: Conservancy Steward

Reports To: Executive Director

Location: Paso Robles, California

Job Type: Full-Time

Salary: \$75k-\$85k

Position Summary

The Conservancy Steward is responsible for the care, maintenance, and ecological management of natural areas, parks, or preserves managed by the conservancy. This role involves monitoring ecosystems, implementing land management practices, and leading volunteer efforts to support conservation goals. The Steward works closely with conservation professionals, volunteers, and local communities to protect and enhance the biodiversity and natural resources of the land.

Key Responsibilities

- **Land Management:** Implement and monitor land stewardship activities such as habitat restoration, invasive species management, controlled burns, reforestation, and erosion control.
- **Field Monitoring:** Regularly inspect and assess the condition of trails, facilities, and natural resources. Collect data on plant and wildlife populations, invasive species, and other ecological factors.
- **Volunteer Coordination:** Recruit, train, and supervise volunteers for various land management and restoration projects. Lead volunteer workdays and provide educational opportunities related to conservation practices.
- **Habitat Restoration:** Assist with restoring native habitats by planting native species, managing seed banks, and removing non-native plants. Monitor restoration sites for success and adjust as needed.
- **Trail Maintenance:** Maintain trails, signage, and infrastructure, ensuring they are safe and accessible for visitors while minimizing environmental impact.
- **Public Engagement and Education:** Serve as an ambassador for the conservancy by leading guided hikes, workshops, and educational events. Provide information to visitors on natural history and conservation efforts.
- **Equipment and Inventory Management:** Maintain stewardship tools, equipment, and supplies. Ensure that all equipment is in good working order and properly stored.



Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District

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- **Reporting and Documentation:** Keep detailed records of stewardship activities, including data collection, project outcomes, and management plans. Prepare reports for supervisors, funders, and stakeholders.
- **Collaboration:** Work closely with conservation scientists, land managers, and other team members to align stewardship activities with overall conservation goals.

Qualifications

- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in environmental science, ecology, natural resources, or a related field preferred. Equivalent experience in land management or conservation will be considered.
- **Experience:** 1-3 years of experience in land stewardship, conservation work, or a related field. Experience with habitat restoration, invasive species management, and ecological monitoring is preferred.
- **Skills and Competencies:**
 - Strong knowledge of native plants, wildlife, and ecosystems.
 - Ability to use and maintain field equipment, including hand tools, power tools, GPS units, and data collection devices.
 - Familiarity with ecological management techniques, such as prescribed burns, herbicide application, and species monitoring.
 - Excellent communication skills for leading volunteers, interacting with the public, and working within a team.
 - Strong organizational skills with attention to detail in documenting field activities and data.
 - Ability to work outdoors in various weather conditions and physically demanding environments.
 - Valid driver's license and ability to operate light utility vehicles.

Working Conditions

- Work is primarily performed outdoors in a variety of weather conditions.
- Regular physical activity, including hiking, lifting, and manual labor, is required.
- Weekend and evening work may be necessary for volunteer events or special projects.

How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and references to admin@us-ltrcd.org.