



Okanogan Conservation District

1251 S. Second Ave, Room 102

Okanogan, WA 98840

Position Announcement: January 10, 2022

Closing: Open until filled, first review January 27, 2022

Wildfire and Community Resilience Lead Planner

Location Office located in Okanogan, Washington, with travel throughout Okanogan County

Salary \$50,256 to \$56,856 per year, DOE

Benefits Medical insurance, Washington State Retirement (PERS), vacation leave, sick leave and 10 paid holidays per year.



About Us

The Okanogan Conservation District (CD) is a dynamic organization comprised of volunteer board members and paid staff that are leaders in “on-the-ground conservation”. The district’s mission is to help cooperating land managers in Okanogan County achieve their conservation goals by:

- Working cooperatively with private landowners and stakeholders to encourage wise stewardship and land-management decisions.
- Providing locally-led, voluntary, non-regulatory solutions to local environmental problems.
- Advocating for high-priority resource concerns facing Okanogan County.
- Educating adults and youth on environmental and natural resources issues in our community.

Okanogan CD is a small team of dedicated staff focused on building programs, providing technical assistance and cost-share opportunities that serve the community and natural resources in Okanogan County. Okanogan CD values teamwork, locally-led natural resource management, creative solutions, and voluntary conservation.

Description

Okanogan CD is seeking a highly motivated and skilled individual to join the district as a Wildfire and Community Resilience Lead Planner. This full-time position will primarily work with organizational partners and landowners to plan and implement forest health improvements and defensible space projects to improve wildfire preparedness and reduce smoke pollution in Okanogan County.

This position will coordinate with representatives from federal and state agencies, tribes, and local organizations to plan high priority, complex projects that improve forest health and reduce individual and community risks from wildfire. This position also will coordinate the district’s response to current wildfires, including technical assistance and cost-share opportunities to community members affected by wildfire. Additionally, there will be opportunities to collaborate with staff and partners on a variety of natural resource management and habitat restoration projects as identified in the 5-year plan and to adapt to local priorities.

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The Okanogan Conservation District is primarily grant funded and the incumbent of this position will work in collaboration with partners and staff to develop grants for continued funding and program implementation. This position reports directly to Okanogan CD's Conservation Director.

Typical Work

The Wildfire and Community Resilience Lead Planner will work with communities and private landowners to plan and implement defensible space improvements by conducting wildfire home risk assessments, developing community plans to facilitate Firewise Community certification, and organize community chipping events to encourage defensible space. They will field technical assistance requests and collaborate with local partners working on similar objectives.

This position will assist landowners with cost-share assistance programs and serve as the project/contract manager for community chipping projects and other resource enhancement projects. When relevant, the work will include recommendations to address a variety of resources, including air quality, fish and wildlife habitat, soil health, noxious weeds, native vegetation planting, and more.

The Wildfire and Community Resilience Lead Planner also will participate in local and regional forums where forest health and community preparedness priorities are formed and consider adaptations to the district's services to the needs of the community. The position will maintain relationships with state and federal agencies and local representatives. They also will scope out new projects for emerging funding opportunities and work with other staff members to apply for grants. This position will manage multiple large and small grants.

Minimum Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree with major course work in forestry or natural resource related sciences, and three years of professional level experience related to the position. An Associate's degree in forestry or a related science/ technology, or field work may be substituted for a Bachelor's degree if the applicant has at least four years of applicable experience.
- Able to effectively communicate verbally and in writing with a diversity of private landowners, agency and organization partners, co-workers, and others.
- Experience facilitating groups of multiple stakeholders to resolve land use and natural resource issues using collaborative problem solving.
- Ability and desire to motivate individuals to adopt resource management practices on their property.
- Ability to organize and plan own schedule of multiple projects and activities related to work goals set by the Conservation Director.
- Self-motivated, able to work independently and in groups, work efficiently and honestly.
- Strong knowledge of MS Office applications (Word, Excel, etc.).
- Ability to develop and manage contracts between agencies, landowners, partners, and contractors.
- Able to traverse uneven ground in varied weather conditions and occasionally carrying up to 50 pounds of equipment and/or materials.
- Ability to travel, sometimes over-night, for field visits and meetings.
- Valid driver's license.

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Desired Attributes

- NRCS Conservation Planner certification.
- Experience working with conservation districts, NRCS and WA DNR.
- Ability to import data and develop maps using ArcGIS.
- Experience conducting wildfire home ignition zone assessments.
- Experience with community groups on collaborative forest management, forest health collaboratives, Firewise USA communities, and/or Fire Adapted Community coalitions.
- Experience facilitating groups to solve complex natural resource problems.

Service Area

Okanogan County is for the adventurous! Our area is well-known for superb recreational opportunities and activities for every season, owing in part to an abundance of public land. Fishing, hunting, hiking, biking, skiing, snowmobiling, and horseback riding are just a few sports enjoyed by locals and visitors. Our scenic highways will take you from the snow-capped mountains of the North Cascades to the open spaces of river valleys along the Okanogan, Methow, Similkameen, and Columbia rivers. There is something for everyone in Okanogan County.

Residents of Okanogan County maintain an independent spirit and a sense of community pride. Our county was named one of the best counties in Washington state to raise a family in 2022 by Stacker.com. Top places to live, according to Stacker, include Okanogan, Omak, and Winthrop. The county's population is about 42,000 with a median home value of \$182,700.

Exploring Okanogan's history is a favorite past time for many. The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Nation boundaries lie within Okanogan County and the area is rich with cultural significance for our first people. Early European settlers came to Okanogan during the 1800s to establish cattle and sheep ranching, and to mine for gold. Several ghost towns and mining operations from the early days still stand. Today, Okanogan County's economic base is largely agricultural supported by apple, pear and stone fruit orchards. Cattle ranching remains the dominate livestock industry and family spreads can be found throughout the county.

Okanogan County's people, places, history, and industry are among the most charming and unique in Washington state.

Application Deadline and Instructions

This position is open until filled. First review of applicants is 12:00 PM, January 27, 2022. Contact the Okanogan Conservation District office for detailed position descriptions.

Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, and three references (at least two of which are professional) online via Smartsheet at the following link:

<https://rb.gy/k7lj6m> OR:

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