



**American Conservation Experience
Staff Position Announcement:
Hiring for two (2) positions.**



**Wetland Easement Monitoring Technician
As of: November 6, 2019**

Title: Wetland Easement Monitoring Technician (hiring for two positions)
Department: EPIC NRCS
Reports to: Program Manager, NRCS Division

Location: Negotiable; Salt Lake City, UT preferred
Status: Seasonal Full-Time, exempt
Compensation: Weekly salary: \$828.00 + housing in SLC
Term: December 2019 to end of February 2020
Travel: Required, up to 50% time
Start Date: December 2019

Position Summary:

American Conservation Experience (ACE), a non-profit Conservation Corps, is seeking an experienced Wetland Easement Monitoring Technician to support the implementation of conservation easement monitoring and reporting on Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) easements nationwide, as established in the Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) and the Agricultural Conservation easement Program Wetland Reserve Easements (ACEP-WRE).

This opportunity is intended for emerging professionals with a background in natural resource management, conservation, environmental law, botany, ecology, planning, landscape architecture, or a related field – with an interest in jointly advancing their career and the stewardship of private lands conservation through purposeful fieldwork, programmatic support and hands-on training and experience with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Program Background and Objectives:

NRCS manages the voluntary WRP and ACEP-WRE programs to conserve, protect and enhance the nation's wetland ecosystems. These programs promote restoration, enhancement, protection and management of wetlands and their associated upland habitats on private lands. Private lands provide a tremendous amount of social, economic and environmental value on a local, national and global scale. They are a great resource not only for people but also for all other living organisms that inhabit the area. Therefore, it is imperative to encourage and enhance sustainable practices to retain and enhance the value of such lands. To that end the NRCS is authorized to enter into these easement programs with private landowners and is responsible for the implementation and compliance upon these resources.

ACE's Private Lands Program supports NRCS at national and state levels by monitoring existing easements for compliance with deeds, assessing results of restoration work, and developing clear and informative reports to aid in the management decisions made by NRCS. We work closely with local, state and federal NRCS staff, with consulting technical experts, scientists, engineers and lead field staff to provide efficient and high-level field work and reporting.

For more information regarding NRCS's conservation management practices visit:

For more information about NRCS easement programs, please visit:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/easements/>
https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb1045079.pdf

For more information regarding ACE, please visit: <http://www.usaconservation.org/>

Essential Duties:

The Wetland Easement Monitoring Technician will assist in key deliverables and outcomes of ACE's NRCS National Wetland Reserve Program by conducting monitoring as part of a team of monitors; documenting ecological observations related to wetland vegetation, wetland hydrology, quality and significance of surrounding upland habitat, invasive and noxious species, wildlife habitat; drafting deliverables including field reports, maps and photo documentation.

- Travel on assignment to various states to conduct field work on private conservation lands enrolled in NRCS easement programs:
 - Comprehensively review technical documents, property deeds and compatible allowed uses for each field site, and appropriately interpret findings with observations in the field.
 - Collect field data per established protocols and tools and report findings and observations through existing templates and platforms in a timely way.
 - Work collaboratively with partners (federal and state NRCS staff, consultants, scientists, engineers, landowners) and maintain strong working relationships.
 - Assist in other compliance, restoration, monitoring and project implementation projects as requested.
- Conducts background research on vegetation and other ecological characteristics the team is likely to encounter during monitoring events in assigned states.
- Uses ArcGIS products to create maps and develop and maintain geodatabases
- Participates in preparatory conference calls with agency and program partners, field staff, and others
- Maintains detailed records of travel expenses and logistics; reports in a timely manner
- Provides specialized assistance to the NRCS and/or consulting partners in data processing and report writing, as assigned.
- Other duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

Applicants should have a degree in natural resource management, environmental law, environmental planning, ecology, biology, botany, range science, wildlife biology, conservation biology, landscape architecture, land use planning, or a related field. Candidates with an advanced degree and an interest in a career in agriculture, habitat restoration and/or resource management within a public/private context are strongly encouraged to apply.

Required:

- Undergraduate degree (BS) in Biology, or closely related field
- Genuine interest and/or knowledge in upland, wetland and riparian resource management
- Plant identification skills
- Some field work experience; wetlands and associated upland habitat exposure a bonus
- Proficient research, analytical, organization and writing skills
- Strong time management skills; ability and desire to perform multiple and variable tasks
- Flexible and adaptable; capable of working well as part of a highly mobile, highly functional team with members located in throughout the nation
- Comfortable communicating directly with resource professionals, landowners, consultants, contractors and federal agency staff
- Proven ability to work independently and be a positive, contributing member of a group
- Strong computer management skills including experience with online personnel databases and email, iOS, Google Docs, Excel, and MS Office.
- Knowledge and experience with GPS units and ArcGIS software
- Ability to work independently in remote outdoor areas; able to hike and walk for extended periods of time, and be capable of lifting up to 50 lbs
- Proficient in English
- Must be able to legally work in the US
- Valid driver's license and an insurable driving record; comfortable driving ACE vehicles as needed.
- Ability to pass a federal criminal background check
- Willing to be drug free throughout position term. ACE reserves the right to drug test at any time.

Preferred:

- Advanced degree in biology, botany, ecology, natural resources management or related field
- Knowledge of ecological functions and plant communities associated with wetlands and riparian habitats
- Experience and/or familiarity with legal methods for private land conservation, e.g. conservation easements
- Experience identifying invasive and noxious plant species of the Southeast United States
- Practical knowledge of the general land use-planning process and land management programs
- Experience with various field data collection methods
- Proven communication skills with diverse audiences including landowners, contractors and scientists
- Experience and training driving four wheel drive vehicles over rugged roads

Compensation:

Weekly salary of \$828/week (\$10,760 for full three month term) plus paid housing in Salt Lake City, UT for the duration of the employment term (December 2019 to February 2020). Additional benefits include paid public holidays, sick leave accrual, and worker's compensation as well as:

- The opportunity to gain professional experience within the Natural Resources Conservation Service,
- Paid, multi-day travel to project locations in various states; travel approximately 2 weeks/month, with every other week at office in Salt Lake City, UT.
- Casual yet professional, non-partisan work environment.

To Apply:

Visit <https://usaconservationstaff.applicantpool.com/jobs> to submit the following:

1. your resume outlining your relevant experience and qualifications;
2. a cover letter describing why this position is a good fit for you and your capacity to work on conservation of private lands and with diverse stakeholders;
3. contact information for three professional or academic references who can speak to your technical abilities and interpersonal skills.

Qualified applicants will be contacted by email to arrange an interview. Applicants must follow all application instructions in order to be considered for this opportunity.

Deadline to apply: Position open until filled. Accepting applications and interviewing as received. Target start date: early December 2019.

***EOE:** American Conservation Experience provides equal employment opportunities to all employees and applicants for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability or genetics. In addition to federal law requirements, American Conservation Experience complies with applicable state and local laws governing non-discrimination in employment in every location in which the company has facilities.*