



## American Conservation Experience Staff Position Announcement



### ACE Partner Conservationist: Easement Technician, NRCS Louisiana As of: April 15, 2021

**Title:** ACE Partner Conservationist – Easement Technician, NRCS LA  
**Department:** ACE Conservation Services – NRCS Division  
**Reports to:** Assigned NRCS supervisors; with additional mentorship and administrative reporting to ACE Program Manager – NRCS Division

**Location:** Ferriday, LA  
**Status:** Regular Full-time, exempt (eligible for full benefits)  
**Compensation:** Starting salary range: \$45,000 - \$48,000  
**Term:** 4 years; position is funded through September 2025  
**Start Date:** June 2021  
**Deadline to Apply:** May 9, 2021

#### Position Summary:

American Conservation Experience (ACE), a non-profit Conservation Corps, is seeking a qualified Easement Technician to provide direct assistance to Louisiana NRCS agency staff, landowners and partners involved in the easement program. Specifically, the ACE Partner Conservationist – Easement Technician will provide easement planning, implementation, and management technical assistance, as well as education and outreach for NRCS easement programs.

This opportunity is intended for emerging professionals with a professional and/or academic background in environmental studies or natural resource management – with an interest in jointly advancing their career and the stewardship of private lands conservation through purposeful fieldwork, programmatic support and hands-on experience with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

#### Program Background and Objectives:

American Conservation Experience (ACE) and NRCS have a mutual interest to conserve, protect, and enhance the nation's wetland ecosystems, as required by Congress through ACEP-WRE and WRP. One of the main objectives of an easement is to restore wetland habitat and to ensure this habitat remains in place.

Louisiana NRCS has a strong history of easement acquisition for the conservation of environmental benefits. Currently there are 1,078 easements statewide, resulting in over 325,000 acres enrolled under permanent or 30- year easement. Easements are located throughout the State's parishes, with concentrations in the northeastern portion of the state, along the Mississippi River Alluvial Valley.

The ACE Easement Technician will provide technical assistance for the timely delivery and support of Louisiana NRCS's Easement Program. Through NRCS training and self-study of available resources, the Easement Technician will become a subject matter expert on the requirements and processes of the easement program. They will use this knowledge to assist landowners and field office staff through enrollment and stewardship activities. They will also be responsible for monitoring a sub-set of Louisiana's easements through onsite (approximately 20-40 per year) and offsite (up to 500 per year) methods. The split of time in the office and time in the field is approximately 70/30, respectively.

For more information about Louisiana NRCS, please visit:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/site/la/home/>

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

### **Essential Duties:**

The Easement Technician will support the Louisiana NRCS Easement Program by (1) completing onsite and offsite easement monitoring events; (2) providing easement acquisition and stewardship assistance; and (3) providing field office and landowner support. Specific duties include but are not limited to:

- **Easement Monitoring (40%)**
  - Complete annual easement program monitoring as assigned to determine habitat maintenance, management, and enhancement needs.
- **Easement acquisition and stewardship assistance (30%)**
  - Provide outreach and education to landowners regarding enrollment in NRCS conservation easement programs and easement management.
  - Assist with easement program land eligibility documentation such as Hazardous Materials Field Inspection Checklist, Preliminary and Final Certification of Inspection and Possession, and other forms as needed.
  - Complete easement boundary survey field reviews
  - Develop easement shape files to be used in the acquisition process
  - Develop preliminary and final Wetland Reserve Plan of Operation (WRPO) in Conservation Desktop.
  - Assist with data entry into national easement tracking database
- **Field Office/Landowner Support (30%)**
  - Assist Field Office staff with receiving WRE applications and submitting completed application packets to the State Office
  - Assist easement landowners with existing easement management and maintenance needs, including WRPOs for enhancement and/or repairs, and development of Compatible Use Authorizations.
  - Assist Field Office with developing easement case files

- Attend and successfully complete trainings as assigned in order to obtain skills and to meet applicable NRCS standards, specifications and program requirements.
- Support Louisiana NRCS with other related tasks as requested or assigned
- Work collaboratively with partners (NRCS staff, consultants, scientists, engineers, landowners) and maintain strong working relationships.
- Participate in regular calls with ACE NRCS Division Staff.
- Maintain records of time, travel expenses, logistics, and accomplishments; report to ACE in a timely manner.

**Qualifications:**

Applicants should have a degree in environmental studies, natural resource management, biology, environmental planning, environmental policy, range science, wildlife biology, conservation biology, engineering, or a related field. In lieu of a degree, applicants who can demonstrate at least one year of comparable work experiences for the duties and responsibilities of this position may be accepted. The applicant must document these work experiences in their application.

*Required:*

- Undergraduate degree in environmental science, natural resource management, or related field OR one year of comparable work experience
- Genuine interest and/or knowledge in wetland, upland, and riparian resource management
- Some field work experience; wetlands and associated upland habitat exposure a bonus
- Proficient research, analytical, organization and writing skills
- Knowledge of and experience with GPS units and ArcGIS software
- Strong time management skills; ability and desire to perform multiple and variable tasks
- Strong organizational skills to keep track of workload, tasks, and interactions
- Comfortable communicating directly with federal agency staff, resource professionals, and landowners
- Proven ability to work independently and be a positive, contributing member of a group
- Strong computer management skills including experience with databases and email, Google Earth, iOS, Google Docs, MS Office, etc.
- Comfortable operating, and using a trailer to haul, ATV/UTV equipment
- 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 and/or government 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.

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Staff Position Announcement  
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As of: April 15, 2020  
Deadline to Apply: May 9, 2021**

**Compensation:** Salary starting at \$45-48k, depending on experience and qualifications.

**Benefits:** A full benefits package including vacation and sick time, paid holidays, 401k retirement, and health, dental and vision insurance options. Additionally, these positions offer emerging professionals the opportunity to gain professional experience within the Natural Resources Conservation Service, attend trainings, and be mentored by both NRCS and ACE staff.

**To Apply:** Please visit <https://usaconservationstaff.applicantpool.com/jobs/569300.html> to submit the following (1) your resume, (2) a cover letter describing why you are a good fit for this position, and (3) contact information for three professional or academic references. Qualified applicants will be contacted by email to arrange an interview.

**Deadline to apply:** May 9, 2021. Accepting applications and interviewing on a rolling basis.

***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.*