BLAINE COUNTY

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position: Assistant Weed Control Coordinator
Seasonal, 40 hours/week

Department: Blaine County Weed District

Summary of Work: Under the supervision of the Weed Supervisor this person is responsible for protecting the assigned areas in the County from the degrading impact of exotic and invasive noxious weeds by implementing sound policies and procedures integrating chemical applications, educating the public to handle weeds on private land, mowing, bio-control, and reseeding disturbed roadsides. Also weed spraying for weed control through the proper application of pesticides in accordance with federal, State, and County laws. Duties include noxious weed identification, safely handling and properly mixing chemicals, spraying and performing light maintenance and calibration of weed spraying equipment.

Job Characteristics/ Essential Functions:

1. Receive and review work assignments and coordinate with other weed sprayers and the supervisor to determine the time, equipment, and personnel necessary to complete weed spraying and weed control projects.
2. Identify noxious and undesirable vegetation in assigned areas to determine what type of chemicals or equipment is necessary to remove or control them. This may also include assisting the public and other agencies with weed identification and advice on removal strategies.
3. Mix and apply pesticides and herbicides in accordance with work orders and record or log all sprayed areas in accordance with d3epartment policies. Review chemical labels and Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for each produce before application. Calculate mix ratios and compute how much spray is necessary for a given area.
4. Perform spraying operations using broad jet, wide boom and hand-line systems according to department policies and procedures and applicable laws.
5. Operate vehicles and application delivery systems including a spray truck, four wheelers, four wheel drives, one ton trucks and other weed control equipment. Adhere to all department safety standards including observing weather conditions, traffic, water and animals that may affect spraying operations.
6. Calibrate and perform light maintenance duties of all spray equipment according to established procedures and manufacturer specifications. Perform minor semi-skilled maintenance and repairs on spraying equipment, mowers and law maintenance equipment, department vehicles and safety equipment.
7. Provide information, rentals, materials, and technical assistance to support the public in effective noxious weed management.

8. Properly dispose of empty containers and rinse materials and maintain the appearance and cleanliness of the facility.
9. Operate specialized equipment and hand tools used in cutting, gathering, and removing noxious weeds including weed whackers, mowers and related County equipment.

Non-Essential Functions:

- Compile and submit activity reports, equipment logs, inspection reports, and other records to provide accurate, complete, and timely information.
- Perform other duties as assigned including but not limited to managing special projects, attending meetings and conferences, providing backup for other staff, and participating in training and testing.

Physical Demands and Working Conditions: The demands and conditions described here are representative of those the employee must meet to perform the essential functions of the job.

- Frequently required to stand, sit, write, read and use hands to handle or feel objects.
- Occasionally required to lift and/or move up to 25 pounds. Infrequently, the employee must lift and/or move up to 50 pounds.
- Frequently the employee is required to wear a breathing apparatus when working with toxic chemicals.
- Frequently works near moving or mechanical parts; with fumes or airborne particles; with toxic chemicals.
- The noise level in the work environment is usually moderate and the employee may be exposed to hazardous fumes or products.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

This job requires knowledge of basic math in order to make computations; knowledge of the weeds and crops grown in Montana and the appropriate herbicides that manage undesired vegetation; knowledge of 2 and 4 wheel drive vehicles used for delivery of chemicals; and knowledge of small engines and how to operate and maintain them.

This job requires skill in the calibration and safe operation of application and spraying equipment; driving a standard/manual transmission; the operation of a computer; map reading; and customer service.

This job requires the ability to mix the correct herbicide and determine proper conditions for application of the herbicides; to monitor and maintain safety protocols; to work and communicate effectively in person and via phone or two-way radio; to read, understand and follow instructions and MSDS sheets and labels; and to read and understand maps. This job also requires the ability to recognize and identify noxious and undesirable vegetation and distinguish between agricultural crops; able to operate hand power tools, chainsaws, four wheelers and other related equipment.

Education and Experience:

This job requires education and experience equivalent to one (1) year experience with chemicals including pesticides/herbicides. Equivalencies include course work in agriculture or related field, certification as a licensed pesticide applicator and one (1) year of experience in weed management operations.

New employees must attend training sessions and pass the Department of Agriculture Pesticide Applicator License exam in Weed Right-of-Way category within 2 weeks of start date. The County will provide and pay for the necessary training and testing.