

Seasonal Weed & Mosquito Control Assistant

Blaine County has an opening for a Seasonal Weed & Mosquito Control Assistant. Applicants may pick up a job description and an Application from the Blaine County Human Resource Office on the 3rd floor of the Blaine County Courthouse or from Job Service, in Havre, MT. The job description and application are also available online at www.blainecounty-mt.gov. All applicants must use a Blaine County Application. Applications must be submitted to the Blaine County Human Resource Office no later than **4:00 p.m. on March 15, 2019.**

Blaine County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**BLAINE COUNTY
POSITION DESCRIPTION**

POSITION: Seasonal Weed and Mosquito Control Assistant

DEPARTMENT: Blaine County Weed and Mosquito Department

ACCOUNTABLE TO: Blaine County Weed and Mosquito Control Supervisor

SUMMARY OF WORK: Under the supervision of the Weed and Mosquito Supervisor this person is responsible for protecting the assigned areas in the County from the degrading impact of exotic and invasive noxious weeds and mosquitos 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, mosquito staging, safely handling and properly mixing chemicals, spraying and performing light maintenance and calibration of weed and mosquito spraying equipment.

JOB CHARACTERISTICS/ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Receive and review work assignments and coordinate with other weed and mosquito sprayers and the supervisor to determine the time, equipment, and personnel necessary to complete spraying and 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. Monitor, sample, and determine mosquito control methods for select areas. Assist public with concerns related to mosquito pesticides and timing of applications.
4. Mix and apply pesticides and herbicides in accordance with work orders and record or log all sprayed areas in accordance with department 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.
5. Perform spraying operations using broad jet, wide boom, foggers and hand-line systems according to department policies and procedures and applicable laws.
6. Operate vehicles and application delivery systems including a spray truck, four wheelers, four-wheel drives, one-ton trucks and other control equipment.

7. Adhere to all department safety standards including observing weather conditions, traffic, water and animals that may affect spraying operations.
8. 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.
9. Provide information, rentals, materials, and technical assistance to support the **public** in effective noxious weed and mosquito management.
10. Properly dispose of empty containers and rinse materials and maintain the appearance and cleanliness of the facility.
11. 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; GPS/GIS mapping, 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.

**Seasonal Weed & Mosquito Control Assistant
Position Fact Sheet**

Work Week: 4, 10 hour days, typically Monday-Thursday. Modification of work week may occur depending on weather conditions and is at the discretion of the supervisor

Salary: \$15.93 per hour

Vacation Leave: Employee earns 10 hours per month (eligible for use after 180 days of continuous employment)

Sick Leave: Employee earns 8 hours per month (eligible for use after 90 days of continuous employment)

Probationary Period: 6 Months

***Health Insurance, Dental & Vision Insurance and Retirement are not available for Seasonal Employees.