

The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County

Conservation Project Manager Job Description

Position Type: Full-time (40 hours/week), Non-Exempt
Benefits: Paid Time Off (vacation and sick leave combined), paid holidays, health, vision and dental insurance contribution, 401K matching program.

Overview

The Conservation Project Manager will join a dynamic land conservation program at The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County. They will work under the general supervision and direction of the Conservation Director, and will collaborate frequently with the Senior Stewardship Manager, Deputy Director, Executive Director, and other Land Conservancy staff. The Conservation Project Manager's responsibilities include land conservation project development, grant writing and research, drafting conservation easements, creating baseline documentation reports and land stewardship plans, monitoring conservation easements and fee-owned lands, conducting geographic analyses in support of conservation projects, and producing high-quality maps and reports. The Conservation Project Manager will become familiar with The Land Conservancy's Strategic Goals and Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Standards and Practices, The Land Conservancy's suite of conservation properties, ongoing Land Conservancy projects, and the organization's current Strategic Plan.

Essential Duties of the Job

Conservation Project Implementation – 50%

1. Project background research, including land use potential; title investigation; natural, agricultural, and cultural resources.
2. Develop project reports and presentations for Land Committee and Board of Trustees.
3. Grant writing and project funding proposals.
4. Grant management and maintaining relationships with funding partners.
5. Organization and archiving of working files and essential permanent files, including project binders, digital files, and offsite archival storage in accordance Land Conservancy policies.
6. Assessment of land conservation opportunities using geographic information systems.
7. Act as liaison to Land Committee, including preparation of agendas, preparing meeting materials, and managing meeting.

Land Stewardship– 30%

1. Assist with annual monitoring of Land Conservancy conservation easements.
2. Assist with preparation and updating of Baseline Conditions Reports and Land Stewardship Plans.
3. Assist Stewardship Team with maintaining relationships with landowners holding LCSLO conservation easements.

Team Engagement, Ongoing Training, and Development of Skills Related to Job Duties – 15%

1. Weekly staff meetings, staff discussions, developing an understanding of all LCSLO programs and departments.
2. Personal skill development related to essential job functions.
3. Workshops and conferences.
4. Review of Land Trust Alliance webinars, e-books, and training opportunities.

Land Trust Alliance - Accreditation – 5%

1. Ensure that LCSLO maintains compliance with Land Trust Accreditation Commission requirements.
2. Review, research, and preparation of land related policies and procedures.
3. Assessment of permanent land files and records.

General Duties

1. Develop and maintain a schedule of tasks to be completed on a regular basis and complete these tasks within the allotted time.
2. Accurately follow job administrative procedures and maintain office files related to properties and projects.
3. When necessary, provide own transportation to Land Conservancy field and office facilities, and to other communities within the County to manage projects and attend meetings.
4. Be mindful of personnel policies and procedures.
5. Be respectful and professional; avoid behavior that would interfere with the work of others.
6. Maintain a professional separation between work and personal activities.
7. Always maintain a positive attitude.
8. Take direction from supervisor; implement suggested changes in the job functions and procedures in a prompt and respectful manner.
9. Identify problems and suggest solutions.
10. Be conscious of safety hazards and report issues to supervisor immediately.

Required Qualifications

1. An understanding of and commitment to the mission of The Land Conservancy.
2. A Bachelor's degree or equivalent professional experience related to geography, environmental sciences, ecology, agriculture, natural resources, land use planning, public policy, or similar field.
3. Excellent written, verbal, graphical, and cartographic communication skills.
4. A passion for land conservation and the outdoors.
5. Fluency with geographic information systems and cartographic principles sufficient to create high-quality maps and conduct spatial analyses.
6. Experience in project and contract management.
7. An understanding of conservation real estate transactions, including conservation easements and fee-owned lands.
8. Ability to plan and implement land conservation projects including the coordination of materials and human resources.
9. Ability to accurately budget time and efficiently complete tasks.
10. Accuracy in the attention to job procedures and administrative procedures.
11. Ability to contribute as a valued team member.
12. Availability to work evenings and/or weekends on occasion in order to participate in public and community or advisory body meetings.
13. Demonstrates initiative in undertaking independent research on what can be done to enhance The Land Conservancy's completion of these job functions and makes recommendations for improvement.
14. Proficiency with various computer programs, such as Microsoft Word, Excel, and Outlook, to successfully complete job functions.
15. Versatility and adaptability in balancing the varied demands of the job so that all projects proceed in a balanced manner.

16. A valid driver's license and ability to provide own transportation to the office of The Land Conservancy and to other communities within the county to manage projects and attend meetings.

Preferred Qualifications

1. An interest and commitment to learning and developing personal skills.
2. Master's degree or equivalent professional experience related to geography, environmental sciences, ecology, agriculture, natural resources, land use planning, public policy, or a similar field.
3. Professional experience in ESRI's ArcGIS platform, including layout view, designing user-friendly maps, spatial analyst, python scripting, and field data collection.
4. High aptitude for computer use, troubleshooting, and applications, including experience with Adobe programs, HTML, python, or other high-level computing applications.
5. 1 – 3 years of experience with land conservation transactions, stewardship of conservation properties, or similar experience.
6. Experience with real estate transactions.
7. Experience with grant writing and preparation of successful grant proposals.
8. Professional and/or academic experience in rangeland management, ecology, and natural systems.

Physical Job Requirements

To comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), which prohibits discrimination against qualified individuals on the basis of disability, it is necessary to specify the physical, mental and environmental conditions of the Essential Duties of the job. "F" for frequently; "O" for occasionally; "N" for not at all.

Physical

On the job the employee must:

- (F) Bend
- (F) Sit
- (O) Squat
- (F) Stand
- (O) Crawl
- (F) Walk
- (O) Climb
- (O) Push/Pull
- (F) Kneel
- (F) Handle objects
- (O) Reach above shoulder level
- (F) Use fine finger movements
- (N) Other: Operate power equip.

Must carry/lift loads of:

- (O) Light (up to 25lbs.)
- (O) Moderate (25-50lbs.)
- (N) Heavy (over 50lbs.)

Mental

On the job the employee must be able to:

- (F) Read/comprehend
- (F) Write
- (F) Perform calculations
- (F) Communicate orally
- (F) Reason and analyze
- () Other _____

Environmental

On the job the employee:

- (O) Is exposed to excessive noise
- (O) Is around moving machinery
- (O) Is exposed to marked changes in temperature and/or humidity
- (O) Is exposed to dust, fumes, gases
- (F) Drives motorized equipment
- (O) Works in confined quarters
- (N) Other: Works with chemicals including toxic glues and herbicides

Reporting Responsibilities

The Conservation Project Manager reports directly to the Conservation Director. The Conservation Project Manager is expected to coordinate closely with the other program directors and managers throughout the organization.

Employee Signature

Date

Employee Printed Name