

## Position Announcement – Private Lands Biologist

POSITION STATUS	Full-Time
STARTING SALARY RANGE	\$52,205 - \$70,901 DOE (GS 9/10)
POSITION LOCATION	Detroit Lakes, Minnesota
CLOSING DATE	4:00 PM April 7, 2025 or until filled



### POSITION PURPOSE:

This is a professional position and requires a diverse background in natural resource planning and protection, problem evaluation, ecological restoration and conservation practice application. This position supports the efforts of private landowners, partner agencies and local professionals implementing locally driven soil health and water quality improvement initiatives, wetland, grassland and soil conservation measures on the landscape. This is accomplished by providing uniform technical expertise, program support and coordination consistent with the goals of Soil Health Practices, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), the Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program, Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans (CWMPs) and the MN DNR Working Lands Initiative.

Activities include program promotion, contract coordination, conservation planning, conservation plan modification, site assessment, monitoring and reporting, coordinating practice implementation, restoration activities, and providing technical assistance to private landowners and public organizations.

### DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree with a major study in natural resource management, wildlife management, water quality, forestry, agronomy, hydrology or related field of biological, physical, or earth science.
- Proficient with ArcPro and related GIS technology and knowledgeable in the principles and practices of Soil Health.
- Requires strong interpersonal and communications skills to work effectively with co-workers, other agencies, and clients.
- Two years of work experience in natural resource management, wetland and grassland management including the ability to utilize various habitat management tools in the development of management plans is preferred. Conservation Planning Certification is preferred at the time of hire and familiarity with the USDA-NRCS's National Planning Procedures Handbook.
- Experience working with USDA Farm Bill programs (CRP, CCRP, EQIP and CSP), SWCD financial assistance programs and the MN Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.
- Strong interpersonal skills; capable of working effectively with individuals in public, private, and Government sectors; self-motivated: able to work with minimal supervision.
- Valid driver's license, physical ability to carry equipment over rough terrain and ability to perform outdoor work in all seasons of the year. Reasonable accommodation may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

### ESSENTIAL JOB FUNCTIONS & DUTIES:

The duties below are normal for this position. These are not to be construed as exclusive, exhaustive or all-inclusive. Other duties may be assigned and required. The assigned work requires occasional prolonged walking, bending, lifting, and stretching on varying landscapes during all types of weather.

1. Provides technical assistance and guidance to private landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and other special interest groups for Federal, State, and Local conservation programs.
2. Coordinates the implementation and application of biological sciences within conservation programs in cooperation with the SWCD, BWSR, MN DNR, NRCS and others. Performs technical work according to the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, independently with minimal supervision.
3. Prepares educational materials, demonstrations, workshops, tours, newsletter articles, press releases in cooperation with NRCS, Becker County Environmental Services, local watershed districts and other agencies.
4. Completes contracts, applications, and other required documentation for SWCD Programs, Federal Farm Bill conservation programs, the Reinvest in Minnesota easement program and other federal, state and local private lands conservation programs.
5. Communicates program requirements, complete site visits to determine eligibility and develop contracts and plans for landowners and agricultural producers.
6. Disseminate information and promote conservation programs available to private landowners through various means including mailings, newsletters, articles, website, sportsmen's events and other occasions.

### SELECTION PROCESS:

Applicants must submit a 1) resume, 2) cover letter and 3) SWCD application for employment to:

Becker SWCD  
Attn: Bryan Malone  
809 8th Street SE  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

Or email completed application materials to [bryan.malone@co.becker.mn.us](mailto:bryan.malone@co.becker.mn.us)

Finalists for the interview process will be determined after initial screening and assessment of qualifications provided in the materials submitted. Applicants selected for the interview process will be contacted directly.

*Becker SWCD is an equal opportunity employer and provider*