

# WATER RESOURCES SPECIALIST

## Job Announcement

**Overview:** This exciting opportunity is part of a collaborative effort between the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), and the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD). This position is responsible for the development, management and coordination of a pilot water leasing program within the middle Rio Grande valley for the primary purpose of assisting land and water rights owners and irrigators to market and protect water rights for: 1) advancing and preserving agriculture within the MRGCD; 2) assisting the Water Management Division with meeting water conservation and operational efficiency objectives; 3) providing for the leasing of water for environmental purposes with a focus on habitat development and in-river flow maintenance; and 4) assisting with meeting specific commitments under the 2016 Biological Opinion. Daily guidance will be provided by MRGCD. A team comprised of contributing partners will provide additional oversight and leadership.

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District operates, maintains and manages irrigation, drainage, and river flood control in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, promotes efficient and responsible water management, protects the environment, wildlife and endangered species in cooperation with other local, state and federal agencies, and provides multi-use recreational opportunities within the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

### Duties:

- Assists the Program Team in conducting an inventory of potential restoration water leases;
- As necessary, assists the Program Team in developing an approach to inventorying pre-1907 water rights that may be available for lease and integrating that approach with other MRGCD proof of beneficial use activities as appropriate;
- Assists the Program Team in securing any New Mexico Office of the State Engineer (OSE) approvals as needed;
- Guides and supports outreach efforts to determine interest in both providing water for the leasing program as well as determining interest levels in leasing water for both agricultural and environmental uses;
- Provides assistance to the general public with pre-determination of water rights and the potential of filing a declaration of pre-1907 water rights applications through analyses of technical information available at the MRGCD and OSE–Water Rights Administration Office;
- Provides assistance to MRGCD constituents in determining options for use of water for leasing purposes including setting of purpose and place of use, price, contract terms and other variables to aid in determining leasing feasibility;
- Prepares and conducts presentations intended to educate the general public with respect to the District's water leasing program while also representing the District in public meetings in matters involving water leasing and/or conservation;
- Assists the Program Team in the development and preparation of recommendation memorandum for determining the appropriate path forward in the development of a water leasing program, and coordinates input from the OSE, other partnership agencies, public outreach consultants, and advisory committee members;
- Provides complex administrative support in preparing memoranda of recommendations to the CEO/Chief Engineer and preparing exhibits in support of written recommendations on potential leasing options while conducting field investigations when necessary to obtain information for field reports;

- Performs other related duties as assigned, including promotion and outreach activities related to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant Agreement regarding the Middle Rio Grande Native Water Leasing and Habitat Restoration Pilot Program.

**Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**

- Ability to communicate effectively with private landowners, government agency personnel, partner organizations and members of the public.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision.
- Ability to work cooperatively and respectfully with diverse clientele.
- Knowledge of New Mexico State Statutes and State of New Mexico Office of the State Engineer's Rules and Regulations.
- Excellent verbal/written communication and organizational skills.
- A general qualification guideline for this position is a Bachelor's Degree in Agriculture Science, Hydrology, Geology, Environmental Science, Water Resources, Watershed Management, Physics, Natural Science, Life Science, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Forestry/Forest Science, Conservation Science, Wildlife Science Emergency Management, or Engineering and two (2) years of relevant experience; or any combination of education from an accredited college or university in a related field and/or direct experience in this occupation totaling six (6) years may substitute for the required education and experience
- Knowledge of computer skills is required and applicant should be familiar with Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Ability to use GIS would be beneficial.
- Physical ability to stand and walk for extended periods of time over rough terrain; lift and move material weighing up to 50 pounds; work in all types of weather conditions.
- Bilingual in English and Spanish is not required, but highly desirable.

**Additional Information:** The funds for this position are primarily of federal origin, managed through the hiring entity; MRGCD. Funding has been secured for two (2) years with intent to secure additional funds. Compensation is commensurate with experience. The work week will be 40 hours/week. Complete job description available at: [www.mrgcd.com/careers](http://www.mrgcd.com/careers); application deadline is August 26, 2019.

**Training and Experience Guideline:** Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities.

**Hiring Salary and Benefits:** Up to \$55,442 per year depending on qualifications based on education and experience; position is benefits eligible, including health, dental and vision, and pension (retirement) benefits. MRGCD will provide workers' compensation, general liability protection, professional liability protection, and unemployment insurance benefits; however, MRGCD is exempt from paying social security benefits.

**Duration:** This position is conditionally funded for two (2) years with partners actively pursuing funds for additional years.

**To Apply:** Submit: (1) MRGCD job application available at [www.mrgcd.com/careers](http://www.mrgcd.com/careers), (2) cover letter highlighting your applicable experience, and (3) resume with three (3) references and their contact information to: [HR@mrgcd.us](mailto:HR@mrgcd.us) by the application deadline.