



NATURAL RESOURCE SPECIALIST - WRITER

FULL-TIME

Farmers Conservation Alliance is a 501(c)(3) organization that operates at the intersection of agriculture, water, and energy. We are excited to bring on additional Natural Resource Specialists to contribute to the core of our growing Irrigation Modernization Program. An ideal candidate for a Natural Resource Specialist - Writer would excel at researching, analyzing, and writing about irrigation modernization efforts and related resources as a primary role; enjoy working with team members to support irrigation modernization planning, design, and funding; and be passionate about developing solutions to long-standing challenges that benefit both agriculture and the environment.

WHEN YOU WORK FOR US, HERE'S WHAT YOU'LL FIND

In 2005, Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) launched with the goal to benefit often under-served rural communities. Our initial strategy was to gain regulatory approval for and then broadly implement an innovative fish screening technology that keeps fish from being trapped in irrigation diversions. We could then use the net proceeds from the sale of these fish screens to support programs and projects for the common good in those same communities. We quickly discovered several things:

- Irrigation communities need far more infrastructure modernization than just fish screens
- Regulatory processes for irrigation infrastructure are incredibly challenging – not only for us, but for the rural communities that need it most
- Many communities already know what they need – they just can't get the projects done, for a variety of reasons
- Few organizations exist with a broad understanding of what it takes to implement infrastructure projects at scale, and even fewer work in rural areas

FCA quickly pivoted from a focus on fish screens to a broader focus on modernizing irrigation infrastructure that benefits agriculture, the environment, and communities. We develop projects in places where projects are difficult to implement, such as rural communities primarily serving disadvantaged populations, or remote areas with limited access to services that make projects workable. In sum, FCA makes things happen in places where things rarely happen.

With well over \$1 billion in projects under development across eight Western states, FCA supports water resiliency in the very places most impacted by climate change and water insecurity. Wherever possible, FCA also integrates alternative energy production, broadband access, and other critical infrastructure improvements for often-disadvantaged rural communities. From small projects that cost under \$100,000, to massive projects requiring hundreds of millions and years of work, our focus is on filling the gaps that

often stall infrastructure improvements – those “spaces” between clear need, planning and design, and actual implementation.

Our staff of 40 strategy consultants, funding specialists, technical professionals, and public policy experts believe that everyone can win – farmers, rivers, and communities. Our headquarters in Hood River, Oregon, inspires staff in both their professional and personal lives. Hood River’s abundant apple, pear, and cherry orchards and salmon-bearing streams provide daily context for our work. The Columbia River Gorge and nearby Mt. Hood provide endless opportunities for hiking, paddling, cycling, skiing, and kiteboarding. Hood River’s one-hour commute to Portland provides staff with easy access to a regional transportation hub, facilitating travel to and from our headquarters.

SO THAT’S US. NOW ABOUT THE WORK

Our Irrigation Modernization Program helps agricultural water providers move from modernization concepts to shovel-ready projects. The Natural Resources Specialist - Writer will primarily research and write about modernization projects and the resources that project may affect, either individually or as part of a broader team. Their daily work will vary based on program needs - in a given week, they may draft a section of an Environmental Assessment developed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); develop a technical report outlining modernization opportunities; contribute to a grant application; and join team members for a meeting with an irrigation district board.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES

- Research and writing to develop a range of materials related to irrigation modernization efforts
- Collate data related to agricultural, environmental, and community conditions
- Prepare technical documents that describe watershed conditions, including environmental, agricultural, and community components
- Contribute to technical documents that describe comprehensive engineering plans or otherwise contribute to irrigation modernization strategies
- Prepare funding applications on behalf of FCA and its partners
- Coordinate with consultants completing environmental assessments and related materials
- Interact with FCA staff and partners, including state and federal agencies, irrigation district staff and board members, and funding partners
- Travel to potential project sites and project installations

A QUALIFIED CANDIDATE WOULD HAVE

- 4 years of academic and/or professional experience in agriculture, natural resources, or a related field
- Demonstrated experience with research and technical, academic, or professional writing
- Experience working with agricultural and/or environmental communities, organizations, and/or individuals
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- The ability to work alone and as part of a cohesive team
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Office suite
- A valid driver’s license and reliable transportation

AN IDEAL CANDIDATE WOULD FURTHER HAVE

- 4 years of additional academic and/or professional experience in agriculture, natural resources, or a related field
- Extensive experience with research and technical, academic, or professional writing
- Experience in managing multiple projects simultaneously
- Experience with state and federal rules and regulations related to permitting and implementing irrigation modernization strategies, including the Endangered Species Act, NEPA, and related rules and regulations
- Ability to evaluate, interpret, and manage non-spatial data, including quantitative and qualitative data
- Basic geospatial data evaluation skills
- Working knowledge of Adobe Acrobat and ArcGIS Pro

INTERESTED? SOME FINE PRINT ABOUT JOINING OUR TEAM

We provide a competitive salary, vacation, health and dental insurance, and a retirement package. We also believe that happy staff deliver the best outcomes. As such, we provide flexibility for staff to spend time doing what they love. We have staff working remotely as part of our normal operations, and we are open to hiring team members who do not reside in Hood River. We will also look for the Natural Resource Specialist - Writer to be in Hood River periodically to connect in person. We are an equal opportunity employer and value diversity. All employment is based on qualifications, merit, and business need; qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin.

TO APPLY

To apply for the position of FCA Natural Resource Specialist - Writer, please submit an attached cover letter, resume, and writing sample to info@fcasolutions.org with "FCA Natural Resource Specialist - Writer" as the subject of the email. Please do not contact FCA staff directly about this position.

Applications should be addressed to:

Julie Davies O'Shea, Executive Director
Farmers Conservation Alliance
102 State Street
Hood River, OR 97031

Position is open until filled.