



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Volunteer Position Description

The mission of the Nature Conservancy is to conserve the lands and waters on which all life depends.

Position Title: Jim Castles Research Station Septic and Winterization Consultant
Location: Sycan Marsh Preserve, Klamath and Lake Counties, OR
Term: August 2019 – June 2020
Report to: Katie Sauerbrey, Sycan Marsh Preserve Manager

Position Summary: The Sycan Marsh Preserve, in Southcentral Oregon, is a 33,000-acre mile-high wetland on the Pacific Flyway. The Preserve is a combination of mixed wet-dry prairie and marsh habitat, and mixed dry-pine uplands. The site is a demonstration site for dry-pine forest restoration including innovative forest thinning, and the reintroduction of prescribed fire. It is also home to thousands of nesting and migrating birds, threatened fish and newly discovered aquatic creatures. The Jim Castles Applied Research Station (JCARS) is a commercial building located onsite on the preserve. The volunteer will help TNC staff move through the design, permitting, and installation of a new septic system for that building. Additionally, the volunteer will reach out to building architects to determine if the building can be fully winterized following the installation of the septic system.

Duties:

- Review JCARS documents to gain an understanding of building design and property layout as it relates to a new septic system and winterization.
- Conduct site visits to JCARS to consult with staff, DEQ, and potential contractors about septic design and installation.
- Work with TNC staff, Lake County Building Department and OR DEQ to obtain permits needed for septic installation.
- Assist TNC staff in selecting a contractor for septic installation.
- Contact JCARS architect or engineer and discuss feasibility of winterizing the facilities. Advise TNC Sycan staff on findings and recommendations.

Requirements:

- Experience with previous construction projects and permitting that can be applied to this project.
- Ability to navigate to and reside temporarily in a remote location
- Enthusiasm
- Strong interpersonal and communication skills, including ability to interact positively with staff, public, and neighbors

- Provide reliable transportation to and from the preserve (4-wheel or AWD vehicles are recommended); must have current driver's license and be age 21 or over
- Provide miscellaneous personal supplies and food.

Time commitment: The volunteer will assist with duties on an as needed basis.

Support provided: The Nature Conservancy will provide off grid housing (water and limited electricity for travel trailer or motor home), including kitchen and showers during site visits. Conservancy staff will be available to provide direction and assistance.

Benefits:

- The opportunity to work in one of the most beautiful areas of Oregon.
- The opportunity to observe a wide variety of native plants and wildlife, and to work for their benefit.
- Experience working with The Nature Conservancy and the opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of Conservancy projects in Oregon.

Contact us to learn more about how to apply:

orvolunteers@tnc.org or 503-802-8100