



**South of the Sound
Community Farm Land Trust**

AGRICULTURAL LANDS PROJECT PLANNER & STEWARDSHIP MANAGER

Position Announcement and Description

South of the Sound Community Farm Land Trust (SSCFLT) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created to promote a local food and farming community by permanently preserving affordable land for working farms and rural housing. SSCFLT's work is based on the Community Land Trust (CLT) model. Community Land Trusts acquire the title to land and then negotiates long term (99 year) leases. A farmland CLT provides secure, affordable land tenure for farmers, prevents land speculation, and preserves a local, sustainable agriculture.

SSCFLT, in partnership with Capitol Land Trust, Thurston County, the PCC Farmland Trust and several funding partners are in the final stages of completing acquisition of a 722-acre dairy farm in Thurston County. 400 acres will be owned by Capitol Land Trust for conservation stewardship and 322 acres will be owned by SSCFLT to support local farmers and food production enterprises in perpetuity. Thurston County and the PCC Farmland Trust will hold agricultural conservation easements on the farmland.

The Agricultural Lands Project Planner & Stewardship Manager will assist the SSCFLT Board of Directors in finalizing acquisition of the farmland portion of the property by the end of 2009. This will involve working with attorneys, appraisers, other consultants and the various partners collaborating in the acquisition of the dairy farm. The Planner and Stewardship Manager will also create a Stewardship Program and Protocol for this and future farm acquisitions to assure compliance with the farm ownership obligations assumed through acquisition grants and conservation easements placed on the properties.

Once this or any future farmland properties are acquired, the Planner and Stewardship Manager the will be responsible for working individually and collaboratively with others to oversee field site monitoring, maintenance of accurate documentation, writing of reports and other required compliance documents. In addition, the Planner and Stewardship Manager will work with contracted or staff property managers, current and future farmer tenants leasing the lands and facilities for their agricultural enterprises, and organizations providing educational or research activities on the property to assure compliance with funding and easement requirements.

The Planner and Stewardship Manager will also take a leadership role in facilitating the development of a Sustainable Practices Farm Plan for this and other future farmland acquisitions. This will include working with the SSCFLT Board of Directors, the Board's Farm Business Plan consultants and the Northwest Cooperative Development Center on the feasibility of a Community Farm Cooperative as a future lessee of some or all of the farmland and buildings. These tasks, along with identifying and recruiting potential farmers as lessees will be a major component of the position once property acquisition is secured at the end of 2009.

Desired Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

SSCFLT Agricultural Lands Project Planner & Stewardship Manager position announcement

- Demonstrated commitment to farmland conservation.
- Demonstrated excellence in written and oral communication.
- Excellent organizational and negotiation skills.
- Excellent attention to detail.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team to implement strategic program goals under time constraints.
- Understanding of or willingness to learn about conservation planning and monitoring techniques, real estate transactions and land use principles.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate effectively with a wide range of stakeholders in agriculture and conservation work.
- Willingness to accept diverse interests and political beliefs while implementing non-confrontational approaches to conservation efforts.
- Ability to develop and maintain partnerships with multiple partners and stakeholders.

Required Qualifications

- Bachelor or graduate degree in Conservation, Organic Agriculture, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Studies, Land Use Planning, Law or a related field.
- Two or more years of experience in at least one of the above fields.
- Knowledge of Pacific Northwest organic farming practices.
- Strong computer competency, including GIS, GPS, Microsoft Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Internet/e-mail and data management.
- Valid, insurable Washington State driver's license.

Salary & Benefits

Compensation is commensurate with experience, with an expected range of \$3000-4000/month FTE. This position can be negotiated to be half-time, ¾-time or fulltime (a fulltime option would include additional responsibilities).

Until the end of December 2009, the position will be a Personal Services Contract funded by grant administrative funds from the various state and federal acquisition sources. If acquisition of the property is successful, the position can be restructured to a staff position with a benefit package to be negotiated.

To Apply

Please email your resume, a cover letter addressing your qualifications (including the Skills, Knowledge and Experience noted above), and the names and phone numbers of three professional and/or educational references to:

Pat Labine, SSCFLT Board

oysterbayfarm@comcast.net

Contact phone: 360-866-9424