

Job Vacancy #05-10:

**Regional Extension Specialist, (Range)
Sterling Regional Engagement Center, Sterling, CO
FIXED TERM – June 1, 2010 – May 30, 2013**

The **Northern Region** is a 17 county area stretching east to west from the Kansas and Nebraska state lines to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, and north to south from Wyoming to 1-70. Seventy percent of the state's population, about 3 million people, lives in the area. The region includes the Denver metro complex and Colorado State University in Fort Collins. There are seventeen Extension offices in the region, eighty extension educators and four regional specialists. Most of this position's responsibility will be in the seven counties of Kit Carson, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma which contain nearly 2.8 million acres of rangeland & pasture (13.9% of Colorado's total). Total livestock cash receipts for these counties are a little over \$1.4 billion, which is about 43% of the total for Colorado. Colorado State Extension Agents and Specialists are working closely with area producers to develop and implement irrigation and cropping strategies that sustain profitable farm business operations. CSU Extension Agents have assisted in developing dryland crop producers to become regional leaders in using no-till farming and integrated cropping systems that optimize the use of the limited precipitation for this area as well as enhance net farm incomes. The area accounts for 35% of Colorado's wheat production, 61% of the corn for grain production, 48% of all sunflower production, 38% of the dry edible bean production, 32% of the sugar beet production and 8% of all hay production. Corn and forage production support a large livestock production industry that is also a major economic influence with numerous cow/calf and large confined animal feeding operations (beef and pork) located here. Interest in and development of renewable energy is a growing industry with corn ethanol and wind energy production currently in place. The natural resources that support the agricultural industry also support plentiful outdoor wildlife and recreational activities.

Sterling, Colorado, located in Logan County (population 22,000), is a trade center for a 60-mile radius of northeastern Colorado, has a population of approximately 14,000 and is about a two-hour drive northeast of Denver. Major employers are a state correctional facility, city and county government, school districts and Northeastern Junior College, the Sterling Regional Medical Center, technology, manufacturing and agriculture-related services. The county is served by public and private schools, two FM radio stations, 2 AM stations, two weekly and one daily newspaper. The major highway is US I-76. Median family income is \$32,724, 12% of the population is Hispanic and the median age is 35.

Duration: Appropriated funding for this position is limited in duration and presently is funded for only three years after the start date. This position has the potential of continuation only if other funding sources are procured. Approval of the Extension Director will be required to continue this position beyond the three year initial duration. **Start date: June 1, 2010.**

APPLICATION PROCESS AND DEADLINE: All materials must be **RECEIVED** no later than 12 Noon February 24, 2010 for full consideration. Please submit the following via e-mail to apply:

- Cover letter
- Statement (no more than 5 pages) of how you meet all the "Required" and "Preferred" criteria listed in the Vacancy Announcement
- Resume
- Transcripts of college(s) course work **showing degrees conferred**
- Name, address, telephone, e-mail address, and your relationship to at least four (4) references
(Note: Applicant will be notified **PRIOR** to references being contacted.)

E-mail all materials to cepersonnel@ext.colostate.edu. If you are unable to e-mail your materials, please call 970-491-1617 for alternate delivery methods.

For questions regarding the application process, contact 970-491-1617 or cepersonnel@ext.colostate.edu. For questions regarding the job vacancy and responsibilities, please contact JoAnn Powell, 970-491-7887 or joann.powell@colostate.edu.

PURPOSE OF POSITION: The purpose of this position is to promote sustainable and productive managed rangeland for private landowners and the general public. This includes educating land managers not only about proper management practices for existing resources, but also providing technical and educational support to return previously altered land back to sustainable, productive rangelands.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS: The regional specialist works under the supervision of the CSU Extension Northern Regional Director, in cooperation with state and federal agencies, with an adjunct appointment in the Warner College of Natural Resources. The office is located at the Sterling Regional Engagement Center; office facilities may also be available on the CSU campus. The incumbent will develop and implement extension programming, in coordination with other extension and university faculty and NRCS staff focused on sustainable management of range production on public and private rangelands, emphasizing ecological services and watershed and ecosystem levels. It is expected that rangeland monitoring will be one of the program areas developed. The position incurs statewide extension responsibilities with a focus on eastern Colorado. The successful candidate will:

- Conduct a systematic analysis of national, Colorado, and county data, local resources, and historical information in order to identify community assets, program needs, and teaching opportunities.
- Develop education programming directed toward county/area extension personnel, rangeland livestock producers, government agency professionals, interest groups, wildlife enthusiasts, and the general public. Programming may address statewide needs but should be centered in eastern Colorado.
- Conduct creative programming and utilize new technology, which may include problem solving research, to address priority needs of the target audiences in the area of livestock management, livestock/wildlife interactions and wildlife habitat. Participate in statewide work teams to develop new and creative programming efforts.

RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS (Cont.):

- Prepare educational material, evaluation instruments, teaching materials and publicity information in support of state, county, and community initiatives. Disseminate educational materials through county, area, and state-wide events, workshops, field days, websites, newsletters and other mass media methods, use of volunteers, and other methods.
- Identify resources (grants, contracts, in-kind contributions, cost recovery fees, etc.) to enhance the program. Manage county, area, state and grant budget allocations where appropriate.
- In cooperation with specialists, agents, and other university faculty, function as a resource for other agencies and organizations. Promote interaction and cooperation among commodity groups, local, state and federal agencies. Actively participate in the Society for Range Management and other professional organizations.
- Promote public understanding and support for Extension and University programs. Promote CSU Extension as the outreach arm of the state land-grant university. Maintain active communication with key stakeholders to increase awareness and support of CSU Extension programming.
- Communicate program results to both professional peers and clientele through periodic reports, scholarly works, and various types of publications, including computer programs, popular articles, bulletins and scientific articles.
- Perform appropriate service that contributes to the effectiveness of the county/area/regional office, CSU Extension, Colleges, and University. Perform as a collegial member of CSU Extension.
- Maintain professional competence through study, participation in professional activities and the application of knowledge and skills on the job. Maintain high ethical and professional standards, and loyalty to CSU Extension and Colorado State University.
- Develop an Affirmative Action plan that actively solicits and involves minorities and other protected classes in planning programs to ensure their participation. Responsible for compliance with the Colorado Affirmative Action plan.
- Provide leadership and assistance with other activities as assigned.

SALARY: Salary will be commensurate with education and experience.

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE:

REQUIRED

- Ph.D. preferred; M. S. required at time of appointment, in Rangeland Ecology and Management or closely allied field with training in Natural Resources.
- At least one degree in Rangeland Ecology and Management (Rangeland Science) at time of appointment.
- Strong background in Rangeland Plant Ecology with education and experience (internships, research projects, family or business enterprise) in rangeland management practices.

PREFERRED

- Demonstrated commitment to promoting and enhancing diversity.
- Demonstrated knowledge of improved pasture management and grazing systems.
- Demonstrated knowledge of current rangeland science research and application and related land management issues.
- Demonstrated knowledge of rangeland pest monitoring and control.
- Excellent written, oral, presentation and technology based communication skills.
- Ability to develop web-based education technologies.
- Experience in group facilitation.
- Demonstrated knowledge of public land agency procedures regarding grazing permits and other users.
- Familiarity with GIS/GPS applications.
- Rangeland monitoring at landscape scales.
- Demonstrated ability to translate scientific information into management recommendations.
- Proven ability to communicate successfully with local landowners and stakeholders.
- Demonstrated ability to conceive, design and conduct field research in the areas of herbivory and plant community dynamics emphasizing the influence of livestock grazing on plant communities and soils.
- Ability to develop ecologically diverse and economically sustainable integrated production systems.

BENEFITS: Based on full-time employment. Twenty-four working days vacation each year, 15 days sick leave. Enrollment in group health, life and accident insurance, various retirement plans, work injury benefits, and disability insurance are all available.

Available personal transportation required, travel allowance provided.

Colorado State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and complies with all federal and Colorado State laws, regulations, and executive orders regarding affirmative action requirements in all programs. The Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity is located in 101 Student Services Building. In order to assist Colorado State University in meeting its affirmative action responsibilities, ethnic minorities, women, and other protected class members are encouraged to apply and to so identify themselves.

Colorado State University Extension operates in compliance with the same laws and executive orders as the University as administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture relations. As a part of the USDA regulations, the Extension Equal Employment Opportunity representative may be contacted at 1311 South College Avenue, Room 102, Colorado State University.

Under the Colorado Open Records Law in order for application materials to be treated as confidential a specific written request that all materials submitted be held in confidence must accompany your application. Such confidentiality cannot be extended to those identified as "finalists" i.e. selected for interview by the Search Committee.

BACKGROUND CHECK: Colorado State University is committed to providing a safe and productive learning and living community. To achieve that goal, we conduct background investigations for all final candidates being considered for employment. Background checks may include, but are not limited to, criminal history, national sex offender search and motor vehicle history.

Application process and additional information may be obtained at our Web site: www.ext.colostate.edu or by contacting:

Judith Barth, Ph.D., Assistant Director, Operations, Colorado State University Extension, 4040 Campus Delivery,

Fort Collins CO 80523-4040

cepersonnel@ext.colostate.edu (970) 491-1617

#05-10	02/24/10
--------	----------