



Friends of the Cheat

FRIENDS OF THE CHEAT

1343 North Preston Highway | Kingwood, WV 26537 | www.cheat.org

JOB DESCRIPTION

Position: Conservation Technician

Supervisor: Conservation Program Director

Position Summary:

The Conservation Technician is tasked with conducting all water quality monitoring and data collection activities within the Cheat River Conservation Program, is involved in ongoing restoration activities, and participates in some project management and organizational development at Friends of the Cheat. General responsibilities include:

- Field Work - collecting field data and water samples, assessing Aquatic Organism Passage barriers, assessing habitat and channel stability characteristics, monitoring for sensitive species, and maintaining restoration project sites such as acid mine drainage remediation sites
- Working in poor weather conditions, traversing steep banks, navigating to remote field sites, hiking several miles, working 10+ hour days, driving and navigating on back roads that are poor in condition
- Data collection, QAQC, management, and analysis
- Landowner communications, volunteer recruitment and management, partner engagement and relationship building, and public education and engagement
- Technical report writing, grant application development, and project oversight

The position requires **proficiency** in both Microsoft Suite (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access) and ArcGIS. The Conservation Technician is supervised by the Conservation Program Director.

Specific Tasks and Responsibilities:

Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) Barrier Assessments

- Assesses manmade AOP Barriers across the watershed, including headwaters in Tucker, Randolph, and Pocahontas Counties, using the [NAACC](#) protocol
- Coordinates volunteers or seasonal staff that assist in data collection
- Strategically plans and schedules barrier assessments based on geography, local conditions, partner availability, landowner permissions, etc.
- Collects supplementary data at particular AOP assessment sites, such as:
 - Upstream and downstream (US/DS) fish abundance
 - Habitat assessments
 - Identification and assessment of reference reaches
 - Substrate characterization
 - Additional mapping (longitudinal profile, channel cross sections)
 - Riffle stability assessments

Acid Mine Drainage Water Quality Monitoring and Restoration Site Maintenance

- Creates and executes master sampling plan for sites in the Cheat Watershed
- Conducts regular monitoring of water quality for:
 - FOC's 20 acid mine drainage (AMD) treatment systems
 - AMD sources
 - Targeted watershed-scale in-stream sites
- Maintains existing AMD treatment systems
- Assists Conservation Program Director in restoration site development and construction oversight
- Coordinates and communicates with private landowners to gain access to properties
- Recruits, trains, and oversees volunteers in the field and/or the laboratory
- Calibrates and maintains monitoring equipment and supplies
- Deploys and maintains continuous data logger(s)
- Coordinates third party laboratory sample analysis

Stream Habitat Assessments

- Leads stream habitat assessments in Upper Shavers Fork Watershed
- Coordinates with Conservation Program Director and Project Assistant daily
- Coordinates with USFS Project Manager weekly
- Collects, organizes, and manages data in a precise and professional manner
- Performs QAQC of data collected

Riparian Restoration

- Leads on-the-ground coordination of riparian restoration (tree planting) activities
- Assists Conservation Program Director in site planning and GIS analysis
- Secures and coordinates volunteer groups for tree plantings
- Assists with securing landowner agreements, coordinates with landowners for plantings
- Monitors former riparian restoration sites for success

Bacteriological Monitoring

- Monitors popular river access points along Cheat River for harmful bacteria
- Identifies and monitors potential sources of bacteriological pollution (E.coli)
- Processes samples and manages data, publishes results
- Procures and leads Interns as needed to support program

Sensitive Species Monitoring

- Collects environmental-DNA samples for Eastern brook trout, Eastern hellbender, and/or other species of interest
- Conducts fish surveys on streams of interest for conservation and/or restoration purposes

Data QAQC and Analysis

- Collects and organizes data in a precise manner
- Processes and manages field and laboratory data in databases
- Calculates pollutant loads and flow
- Reviews data for suspicious entries and errors
- Updates Cheat River Conservation Program monitoring plans, forms, and procedures
- Develops maps using ArcGIS and/or Google Earth
- Generates tables and figures for reports using data visualization software

Administrative and Organizational Development

- Participates in annual budget development
- Manages Stream Partners grants
- Assists in Cheat Fest and other organizational fundraising
- Seeks out strategic relationships with partners, funders, and beneficiaries of FOC's work
- Pursues professional development opportunities

Education and Outreach

- Assists with FOC's Snorkel Outreach Program
- Contributes to newsletters and outreach materials
- Participates in education and outreach workshops and events