

NORTH UNIT IRRIGATION DISTRICT

JOB DESCRIPTION

DITCHRIDER/MAINTENANCE

Definition

Under general supervision, positions in the Ditchrider/Maintenance classification regulate the flow and distribution of irrigation water to waterusers, canals, and ditches downstream; respond to inquiries and complaints from waterusers; inspect canals and ditches for leaks or spills; repair or assist with the repair of leaks; and maintain canals, headgates, meters, and general district infrastructure/facilities. Post irrigation - perform general work in the maintenance, construction, and repair of district facilities.

Examples of Duties

The duties listed below are illustrative only and not meant to be a complete and exhaustive listing of all of the duties and responsibilities of the classification.

Irrigation Season

- Ensures water is delivered to waterusers within the designated time frame.
- Regulates headgates and diversions to ensure the maintenance of proper water levels in canals and ditches. Minimize water waste through efficient delivery control.
- Maintain current written and electronic records to include accurate delivery, water measurement, and usage records.
- Ensures distribution/delivery system remains free from debris and obstructions.
- Advise waterusers regarding the delivery of water.
- Inspects canals and ditches for leaks. Reports leaks and makes or assists with necessary repairs.
- Fill out seepage reports weekly then turn in with monthly books.
- Verify and document beneficial use of irrigation water/lands.
- Responds to waterusers' inquiries and complaints regarding the delivery of water.
- Contacts waterusers in the preparation of crop reports and other district-related data collection.
- Keeps supervisors informed of problems/issues related to delivery of water, encroachment and water theft.
- Control of weeds through manual and/or chemical control, which may include obtaining and maintaining noxious weed management training and certifications.
- Fill out chemical spray report, turn in with monthly books.
- May work irregular or extended overtime hours, especially in times of water shortage or drought.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

Post Irrigation Season

- General maintenance of district facilities, buildings, and housing. Construction and repair of concrete structures. Duties related to pipeline construction/repair (under/aboveground), including performing hand labor and use of power hand tools, and operation of dump trucks and heavy equipment. May work irregular or extended overtime hours.
- General maintenance activities can extend from Wickiup Reservoir near Lapine to the Deschutes River Canyon north of Madras.

Housing

- Employee is required to live in company housing within the assigned service area.

Typical Physical Activities

- Operates district vehicles in operating and monitoring irrigation water delivery systems.
- Must be able to carry, push, pull, reach, and lift equipment and parts weighing up to 50 lbs.
- Stoops, kneels, crouches, crawls, and climbs during maintenance and water delivery work.
- Works in an environment with exposure to dust, dirt, cold swift flowing water, and significant temperature changes between cold and heat.
- Communicates orally with district staff and waterusers in face-to-face and one-to-one settings.
- Regularly uses a telephone and mobile radio for communication.
- May use office equipment such as computers, copiers, calculators, and FAX machines.
- Stands and walks for extended time periods.
- Hearing and vision within normal ranges.

DITCHRIDER/MAINTENANCE

Employment Standards

Knowledge of:

- Basic hydraulics and water flow.
- Basic arithmetic.
- Mechanical principles.
- Various types of water gates, diversions, and turnouts.
- Methods used in balancing water flow.
- Geography of the local area.
- Tools and equipment used in repairing leaks to ditches and canals.
- Proper work safety standards.

Ability to:

- Respond and resolve complaints from waterusers.
- Ensure that water is delivered in a timely manner.
- Make accurate arithmetical calculations.
- Deal tactfully and courteously with waterusers and the public.
- Follow oral and written directions.
- Establish and maintain cooperative working relationships with co-workers, outside agencies, and the public.
- Legible penmanship.

Environmental Factors

- Exposure to the sun: 25% to 100% work time spent outside a building and exposed to the sun.
- Work above floor level: Use of ladders or other work surfaces from 1 to 12 feet above ground.
- Temperature: Performs manual labor in sub-zero to 100-degree temperatures.
- Humidity: Seldom work in areas with unusually high humidity.
- Wetness: More than 10% of the work time getting part or all of the body and/or clothing wet.
- Noise: Occasional work in the vicinity of constant/intermittent/loud noises/sounds.
- Slippery surfaces: Frequently works on unusually wet and/or slippery surfaces.
- Dust: Frequent work in or around areas with small to large amounts of dust present.
- Confined/Restricted Spaces: Infrequent entry into confined/restricted work environments.

Desirable Qualifications

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Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the necessary knowledge and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be:

- Education: Equivalent to graduation from high school or GED.
- Experience: Three years of farming experience, or related activity, where canal and ditch irrigation methods were used and/or three years general construction experience.

License/Certificate/Registration Requirement:

- Possession of a valid Oregon Driver's License.
- Oregon Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class A or B – obtain upon request of the district.
- Public Applicator Apprentice License (Includes Laws and Safety).
- Right-of-Way and Aquatic Applicator License – obtain upon request of the district. Must obtain Aquatic License first.

Possession and proof of a good driving record as evidenced by freedom from multiple or serious traffic violations or accidents for at least two (2) years duration. The driving record will not contribute to an increase in the district's automobile rates.

Pay Scale/Salary/Wage:

Starting wage: \$19.24 plus housing

Refer to Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Ditchrider classification is considered a "Safety Sensitive" position.

The specific statements shown in each section of this job description are not intended to be all-inclusive. They represent typical elements and criteria necessary to successfully perform the job and meeting the needs of the district.