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PearlMusselProject.ie

Catchment Officer (Agri-environmental) (two positions)

Employer: The Pearl Mussel Project Limited

Location: Kenmare, County Kerry / Westport, County Mayo

Job Type: 5 Year fixed term contract, full time

Salary: €35,000 / annum (excl. travel expenses)

Closing date: 12th October 2018

Role / Position: The Pearl Mussel Project is a locally led European Innovation Partnership (EIP) jointly funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, which aims to establish a voluntary results-based agri-environmental scheme for farmers within eight priority catchments. The overall aim of the scheme is to promote farm management tailored to maintaining and improving the local environment with a view to securing the long term conservation of freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) in Ireland.

We are currently recruiting two catchment officers with agri-environmental backgrounds: one officer to work the southern (south Kerry and west Cork) area based in the Kerry office, and one officer in the western (Mayo, Galway, Donegal) area based in the Mayo office. The successful applicants will work as key members of the project team and will report to the Project Manager. The role will require the successful candidate to travel between the four catchments in their respective areas on a regular basis, and they will likely spend a high proportion of time out of the office.

Main duties and responsibilities:

- Main point of contact between farmers and the project team;
- Support and assist the scientific team in developing and trialling the results-based agri-environmental scheme;
- Continual liaison with the farming community in four of the project catchments;
- Provide agri-environmental advice and support to participant farmers during scheme;
- Liaise with and provide support to agricultural advisors as required;
- Contribute to the development of guidance documents and training material;
- Assist with delivery of training to farmers and agricultural advisors;
- Planning and conducting monitoring surveys and fieldwork;
- Work closely with the western / southern catchment officer and wider team;
- Attend local advisory group meetings;
- Organise and partake in outreach events such as school visits; and
- Prepare and contribute to reports when required.

Qualifications and experience required:

We are looking for a Candidate with the following knowledge, experience, and attributes:

- A degree in agriculture, ecology, or related discipline;

- Minimum of 5 years relevant work experience in the agricultural / environmental sectors;
- Knowledge and awareness of previous and present agri-environmental schemes such as REPS, GLAS, Hen Harrier Programme, Burren Programme etc. Knowledge of results-based schemes would be an advantage.
- Strong knowledge of peatland and grassland habitats and their indicator species;
- Experience in the preparation and monitoring of farm plans;
- An ability to identify issues at a farm level that pose a threat to freshwater pearl mussel, and identify solutions which give due consideration to the environment and farm operations;
- Excellent communication skills;
- Exceptional organisational and project management skills;
- Must be comfortable using Microsoft Office and ESRI ArcGIS or other mapping software;
- Must be self-motivated and have a proven ability to work under their own initiative;
- A positive and enthusiastic attitude;
- Have a pragmatic, solution driven and flexible approach to work;
- A willingness to actively participate as part of a wider multidisciplinary team;
- An ability to manage their own workload, ensuring that work is carried out on schedule; and
- A full clean driver's licence.

How to apply:

Send cover letter, CV, and two referees by 12th October 2018 to:

Dr Patrick Crushell
 Project Manager
 The Pearl Mussel Project Ltd
 Bell Height
 Kenmare
 County Kerry

Tel: 064 6642524

E-mail: patrick@pmproject.ie

Please indicate your preference for the Kerry or Mayo position in your cover letter. Suitable applicants will be short listed for interview during October with a view to the two successful applicants commencing work during November 2018.