



Job Opportunity in Connemara and South Mayo Area

Catchment Officer (Agri-environmental)

Employer: The Pearl Mussel Project Limited

Location: South Mayo/Connemara

Job type: 2 Year fixed term contract, full time

Salary: €40,000 / annum (excl. travel expenses)

Closing date: 08/06/2022

Suitable applicants will be shortlisted for interview on 16th and 17th June with a view to the successful applicant commencing work on 4th July 2022

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 has developed a voluntary results-based agri-environmental scheme for farmers within eight priority catchments. The overall aim of the five year programme (currently in year 4) 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 working with over 470 farmers across our eight priority freshwater pearl mussel river catchments.

We are now recruiting a catchment officer with an agri-environmental background for our North-west Catchments (in Connemara, Mayo and Donegal). The successful applicant will work as a key member of the project team and will report to the Project Manager. The role will require the successful candidate to work remotely and to travel between the four catchments in the north-west on a regular basis. The successful applicant will be expected to work from a home office.

Main duties and responsibilities

- Main point of contact between farmers and the project team;
- Continual liaison with the farming community in four of the project catchments (Owenriff, Co Galway; Dawros, Co Galway, Bundorragha, Co Mayo, and Glaskeelan, Co Donegal);
- Provide agri-environmental advice and support to participant farmers during the scheme;
- Liaise with and provide support to farm advisors working on the Programme as required;
- Contribute to the development of guidance documents and training material;
- Assist with delivery of training to farmers and farm advisors;
- Planning, coordinating and conducting monitoring surveys and fieldwork;
- Organise and partake in outreach events such as school visits;
- Liaise and work closely with the wider project team; and
- Prepare and contribute to reports when required;
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- Work closely with the upcoming South Mayo Cooperation Project team.

Qualifications and experience required

The ideal candidate would have the following knowledge, experience, and attributes:

- A degree in agriculture, ecology, or related discipline;
- Minimum two years relevant work experience in the agricultural / environmental sectors;
- Knowledge and awareness of agri-environmental schemes such as REPS, GLAS, Hen Harrier Programme, Burren Programme, etc;
- Strong knowledge of farmland habitats (peatland & grassland) 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 and a strong attention to detail;
- Self-motivated and have a proven ability to work under their own initiative;
- Have a positive, enthusiastic, 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;
- A full clean driver's licence and own transport;
- Good computer skills particularly in the use of Microsoft Office software;
- Knowledge and experience of results-based schemes would be an advantage; and
- Experience of using ESRI ArcGIS or other data management software would be an advantage.

How to apply:

Send cover letter, CV, and two referees by Wednesday 08th June to:

Dr Patrick Crushell

Project Manager

The Pearl Mussel Project Ltd

Bell Height

Kenmare

County Kerry

Tel: 064 6642524

E-mail: patrick@pmproject.ie Web: PearlMusselProject.ie