

Job Announcement

Seasonal Invasive Species Program Technician

Job Title: Natural Resources Technician

Application Due Date: February 2nd, 2026

Location: One position in Homer, and one position in Soldotna

Start Date: Flexible, late-February to early-March

Duration: Part-time, seasonal, from late-February through mid- to late-September 2026

Pay: \$22.00/hour

Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) seeks two part-time seasonal natural resources technicians to support the district's Invasive Species Program. One position will be based in Homer and one in Soldotna.

As a seasonal technician, you will work closely with the HSWCD invasive species team and partners from the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (KP-CISMA) to assist with planning and implementing terrestrial and aquatic invasive plant management projects, including surveys, monitoring, and control work. You will also support Alaska's Certified Weed-free Gravel Program through gravel inspections and may assist with other program priorities, such as public outreach. The Homer-based tech will work primarily on the Southern Peninsula, and the Soldotna-based tech on the Central Peninsula. However, both positions will involve daily travel to field sites across the peninsula.

What you'll do:

- Obtain an Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Certified Pesticide Applicator license to conduct herbicide applications. This is required.
- Assist with terrestrial and aquatic (elodea) invasive plant projects, including surveys, manual (hand-pulling) and chemical (herbicide application) control, data management, and planning for fieldwork. Projects may involve work in remote (fly- and/or hike-in) locations, boat-based work, and overnight travel.
- Engage with landowners on plant identification, management strategies, and prevention practices
- Become a Certified Weed-free Products Inspector, inspect gravel pits and material storage sites for potential weed-free gravel certification, and maintain inspection records
- Participate in weekly team meetings, the KP-CISMA's spring training, and other field staff trainings as offered (e.g., bear safety, chainsaw, first aid/CPR)
- Assist with postseason data QA/QC

What we're looking for:

- Ability to obtain Alaska Certified Pesticide Applicator license (Costs associated with training and exam fees covered by HSWCD). ***This is a requirement of the job - passing the exam is a condition of continued employment.***
- Educational background in natural resource management, ecology, botany, environmental science, or a related field
- Ability to collect data and maintain accurate records of surveys and herbicide treatments
- Self-motivated, able to work independently and as part of a team to complete complex projects and remain adaptable in dynamic field conditions
- Reliable transportation - the job will require extensive travel across the Kenai Peninsula (mileage reimbursed at the State of Alaska's 2026 rate)
- Willingness to participate in multi-day field trips. Overnight stays may include remote camping or staying in shared quarters (e.g., cabins or bunkhouses).
- Strong oral and written communication skills, and comfortable communicating with private landowners, contractors, gravel pit operators, and agency partners
- Solid plant identification skills
- Comfort working in inclement weather, remote locations, and variable conditions, including operating canoes and packrafts and flying in small fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters.
- Valid driver's license and ability to pass a federal background check.

Bonus skills (not required):

- Current Alaska DEC Certified Pesticide Applicator License and/or herbicide application experience
- Experience with digital data collection (e.g., Field Maps) or basic GIS skills
- ATV, boat, and/or chainsaw operation experience
- Public presentation or outreach experience
- Experience working in remote areas of Alaska
- First Aid/CPR certification
- Grant reporting, performance tracking, or budget management experience

What you can expect from us

We anticipate the job to start with approximately 10-15 hours/week in late February, increasing to an average of 30 hours/week in June through September. The exact number of hours worked each week may vary (e.g., 40+ hours one week and 20 the next) based on workload, funding, and weather conditions.

To apply, please email a cover letter, resume, and contact information for three references to **Abby DeKoekkoek** at abby@homerswcd.org. Please specify in your application if you are applying for the Homer or the Soldotna position, or if you would like to be considered for both. Applications are due **February 2nd, 2026**.