

# **GASCOSAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

## **POSITION DESCRIPTION**

### **FORESTRY OPERATOR**

I.

#### **OBJECTIVE:**

To provide support in the construction, maintenance and repair work of system lines related to the electrical plant. To work around electrical lines either dead or energized and at all voltages. Under general supervision of the Forestry Foreman, to participate in the work of a crew engaged in the cutting, trimming, planting, cultivating, maintenance and removal of trees; and to perform related duties as assigned. To cut new and old right-of-ways and dispose of all brush and logs in accordance with Cooperative policies and property owner's requests and as directed. To operate heavy right-of-way vehicles and equipment.

#### **II. RELATIONSHIPS:**

A. Reports to: Operations Manager, Forestry Foreman or Journeyman Lineman in charge.

B. Coordinates or cooperates with:

##### **1. Internal:**

Forestry Foreman, Lead Forestry Operator, Operations Manager, Forestry Trimmers, Area Service Linemen, Journeymen Lineman, Laborers, Groundsman

##### **2. External:**

a. General Public - To maintain good public relations in all contacts with general public.

b. Maintain good working relationship with fellow employees and supervisors.

#### **III. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITIES:**

The Forestry Operator participates in such activities as cutting of trees, cutting shrubbery, trimming or removal of excess, dead or diseased limbs or branches from trees or shrubbery using powered or hand saws or pole prunes from around high voltage power lines in conformance with safety regulations. The Forestry Operator uses heavy right-of-way equipment in the work. Performs a wide range of ground-work duties, operates heavy equipment, or works out of a bucket as directed by the Forestry Foreman and is personally responsible for duties such as:

A. Works with a crew of other employees.

B. Typical Duties Performed:

1. Cuts and prunes trees along a designated route or foliage that interfere with utility lines using ropes, axes, hand saws, pruning shears, chain saws, other various portable tools and heavy-duty right-of-way equipment.
  2. May operate an aerial truck, mower, side trimmer and other heavy equipment in the cutting and trimming of trees.
  3. Guides, directs and flags traffic.
  4. Performs tree maintenance functions including reinforcing trees and spraying herbicide on trees and shrubs for their control.
  5. Removes trees and stumps using handsaws, power saws, axes, aerial trucks, ladders, ropes, safety belts, heavy equipment and other related equipment.
  6. Drives a truck hauling forestry debris or supplies; operates attachments including loaders and hoists; operates mower, side trimmer; performs routine truck and heavy equipment maintenance; performs daily DOT inspections of trucks and equipment.
  7. Cuts, rakes, chips, and loads branches, leaves, and other debris on a truck. Required to move heavy objects and materials.
  8. Sharpens saws and other tools. Performs routine maintenance work on tools, trucks and equipment.
  9. Uses safe work practices and complies with OSHA regulations and the Cooperative's safety manual.
  10. Inform the public of necessary tree care operations and practices.
  11. Stays alert to any danger when working around "hot lines" and stays in a position to see hazards.
  12. Attends necessary training related to ROW and ROW chemical application.
  13. Acquires permission where needed from property owners on cutting and/or herbicide applications.
- C. Accountable for tools and equipment assigned.
- D. Performs all work safely and properly in accordance with Cooperative rules, instructions, and practices.
- E. Makes required reports of work done.

- F. Maintains a high standard of good housekeeping.
- G. Works with other Cooperative crews as directed and performs Groundsman duties for Lineman when necessary.
- H. Complies with all vehicles traffic laws, safety rules and regulations.
- I. Must obtain and/or maintain First Aid and CPR certifications.
- J. Performs all other duties as assigned.

**IV. POSTION SPECIFICATIONS:**

Fair Labor Standards Act Provisions:

The position of Forestry Operator is a non-exempt position under the provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act and is subject to the Cooperative's policies and procedures to overtime hours and premium pay. This position may be subject to shifts or changes in work hours with very little notice.

Personal Requirements of Position:

1. Education:

Must have a high school diploma or equivalent. Good reading comprehension, writing, and mathematics skill desired. Additional vocational schooling to provide knowledge or application of related subjects desirable, but not essential.

2. Experience:

This is an entry-level position. Prior related experience is preferred, but not a requirement.

3. Knowledge:

Must obtain and/or maintain standard First Aid and CPR certifications. Working ability to understand and follow oral and written instructions.

4. Attitude

Must demonstrate initiative, good judgment, ability, and willingness to assume responsibility. Must be able to deal with a variety of people in various situations with tact and good judgment. Must believe in, be sympathetic with, and be interested in furthering the public understanding and acceptance of the Cooperative objectives. Must understand the need for and be willing to work erratic hours and under

pressure in order to meet various deadlines. Must have high regard for the Cooperative's equipment. Must continually demonstrate high regard for the safety of others.

5. Abilities and Skills:

Must be able to read and interpret instructional material and job specifications. Must be able to read and comprehend simple instructions, short correspondence and memos as well as write simple correspondence. Must be able to read and understand maps. Must be able to address work situations that involve frequent changes of tasks using different techniques, procedures, or degrees of attentiveness without loss of efficiency or composure. Must be able to communicate orally. Must be skilled in climbing trees and operating tools and safety equipment. Must be able to operate heavy equipment. Must be able to communicate using telephone and two-way radio. Must be able to and have initiative to work without close supervision. Must obtain and/or maintain a current, valid Class "A" CDL license with no restrictions. Must be able to obtain and/or maintain an herbicide license. Must be able to deal tactfully with the public.

6. Physical Characteristics:

Must have sufficient physical health to perform the essential functions, duties, and responsibilities of the job:

- a. Must be able to lift and carry heavy objects up to 75 lbs with frequent lifting and/or carrying of objects weighing up to 25 pounds. Occasionally lifts and moves up to 100 lbs.
- b. Must be able to move arms, legs, feet, and hands sufficient to operate heavy equipment.
- c. Must be able to extend hands and arms in any direction.
- d. Must be able to pull, push, stoop, kneel, and reach.
- e. Must be able to bend body downward and forward by bending spine at the waist, requiring full use of the lower extremities and back muscles.
- f. Must be able to seize, hold, grasp, turn or otherwise work hands.
- g. Eyes:
  - i. Clarity of vision at 20 inches or less.
  - ii. Clarity of vision at 20 feet or more.
  - iii. Ability to judge distances and spatial relationship in order to see objects where and as they actually are.
  - iv. Must have good peripheral vision.
  - v. Must be able to identify and distinguish colors.
  - vi. Must have ability to adjust eye focus.
- h. Must be able to work around oil, dirt, solvents, and herbicides.
- i. Must be able to work in extreme weather conditions.

7. Equipment Operated:

Must obtain and/or maintain a current, valid Class “A” CDL license with no restrictions.

8. Working Conditions:

The work environment involves high risks with exposure to potentially dangerous situations or unusual environmental stress that requires a range of safety and other precautions. Work is performed outside in extreme weather conditions, including inclement weather conditions. The employee is subject to considerable exposure to energized line hazards and risk of electrical shock. The employee is exposed to considerable walking, standing, sitting, pulling, pushing, stooping, kneeling, bending, and reaching. Work is around oil, dirt, solvents, and herbicides. The noise level in the work environment is usually loud equipment. The employee is exposed to moving mechanical parts and vibration. This position is subject to shifts or changes in work hours with very little notice.

9. Residency Requirement

The employee must live within a 30 thirty-minute drive time from a post office located in one of the following:  
Brumley, Ulman, Iberia, Crocker, Swedeborg or Dixon.