

# Northwest Horticultural Council

## Job Description

### Vice President for Scientific Affairs

The Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) is a nonprofit trade association, based in Yakima, Washington, that represents the tree fruit (apple, pear, and cherry) industry of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington on federal and international policy and regulatory matters. The tree fruit growers, packers and shippers in our region produce approximately 77 percent of the fresh apples, 84 percent of the fresh pears, and 78 percent of the fresh cherries in the U.S. Roughly a third of the production is exported each year. Producers from the Pacific Northwest account for over 90 percent of the U.S. apple and pear exports and 65 to 75 percent of U.S. cherry exports.

With a staff of six professionals, the NHC is an advocacy group that engages with the private sector, academia, government, and nongovernmental bodies. We are looking for an active problem-solver, someone who can lead and work cooperatively on commercially important projects with federal, state, and international entities.

The NHC's vice president for scientific affairs is an industry leader on multiple policy and technical fronts. This individual will provide sound recommendations involving all manner of horticultural subjects, research, crop protection products, and the scientific needs requisite for international trade. This position is responsible for developing technical information and formal comments to regulatory agencies on behalf of the association.

A successful candidate will be an excellent communicator, able to interact with diverse communities and lead or follow depending on the team environment associated with a particular project or initiative. This position will report to the NHC's president and will require local, national, and international travel.

#### Duties and Responsibilities

- Work independently and/or collaboratively with industry and allied associations to assess and respond to regulatory actions and their anticipated impacts.
- Represent the NHC and its interests in public or private meetings and to the press.
- Develop relationships with universities and the U.S. government to foster research and regulatory practices that safeguard and advance the growing, packaging, and selling of tree fruit.
- Foster positive relationships with chemical companies and the Environmental Protection Agency to support the maintenance and availability of pre- and postharvest crop protection products.
- Develop plans, write reports, and generate public comments to support industry initiatives.
- Serve as the lead staff person for the NHC Science Advisory Committee.
- Attend regional/national/international gatherings to create, build, and maintain relationships among scientific and regulatory communities.
- Communicate regulatory requirements to growers, packers, and shippers to avoid noncompliance with governmental regulations in the domestic and international markets.
- Direct the work of technical consultants on an as needed basis.
- Assist on food safety priorities in coordination with multiple stakeholders.

**Essential Job Requirements:**

- PhD or Master of Science in biology, chemistry, horticulture, plant pathology, or related subject.
- Excellent communication skills to convey technical information and concepts to diverse audiences, including regulators, industry, and the general public.
- A demonstrated ability to organize and manage multiple projects while responding to unforeseen circumstances and deadlines.
- Ten or more years of post-university work experience.
- A drive to learn on the job and advocate for the tree fruit industry.

**Preferred Job Requirements:**

- Experience with specialty crop horticultural practices, preferably with tree fruit.
- Practical knowledge of pre-and postharvest physiology, entomology, plant pathology, and Integrated Pest Management for tree fruit is highly desirable.
- Background working with or in a regulatory agency, such as the Environmental Protection Agency or the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- A strong understanding of pesticide practices, including those involving workers/applicators and other pesticide label requirements.
- Grant, research, or technical writing experience.

Interested candidates should submit letters of application to the NHC at 105 S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 105, Yakima, WA, 98901 or to [general@nwhort.org](mailto:general@nwhort.org). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Information on the Northwest Horticultural Council is available at [www.nwhort.org](http://www.nwhort.org).

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