
Vice President for Scientific Affairs – Northwest Horticultural Council

Rare opportunity to lead Scientific Affairs Advocacy for Tree Fruit Industry in the Northwest U.S.

The Northwest Horticultural Council (NHC) has retained Kincannon and Reed to attract a Scientific Affairs Leader, reporting to the President, to advocate on commercially important projects with allied associations, federal, state, and international entities.

About Northwest Horticultural Council

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 69 percent of the fresh apples, 83 percent of the fresh pears, and 69 percent of the fresh cherries in the U.S. Roughly a third of the production is exported each year.

With a staff of eight, the NHC is an advocacy group that engages with the private sector, academia, government, and nongovernmental bodies. The ideal candidate will be an active problem-solver, someone who can lead and work collaboratively on commercially important projects with allied associations in addition to federal, state, and international entities.

Position Overview

Reporting to the President, the Vice President for Scientific Affairs is an industry leader on pesticide policy and other scientific matters such as climate change, plant pest and disease priorities, and all manner of research projects. This individual will provide sound recommendations and advocacy related to crop protection products and industry needs requisite for their use domestically and in international trade. The 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.

Specific duties and responsibilities include:

- 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.
- Foster relationships with chemical companies and the Environmental Protection Agency, USDA, NOAA Fisheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service to support the maintenance and availability of pre- and postharvest crop protection products.
- Develop relationships with industry, universities, and the U.S. government to foster research and regulatory practices that safeguard and advance the growing, packaging, and selling of tree fruit.
- 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.

Vice President for Scientific Affairs – Northwest Horticultural Council

Rare opportunity to lead Scientific Affairs Advocacy for Tree Fruit Industry in the Northwest U.S.

- Direct the work of technical consultants on an as needed basis.
- Seek grant funding to support industry priorities.

Other important parameters for this position include:

- The post is located in Yakima, Washington at the NHC headquarters.
- Moderate domestic and occasional international travel is required.
- This is an independent contributor role with regular intra-office collaboration

Candidate Profile

We seek a forward-thinking, scientifically capable, articulate, and results-oriented leader who is able to constructively engage with a broad array of constituencies.

Essential Job Requirements:

- 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.
- Six or more years of post-university work experience.
- A drive to learn on the job and advocate for the tree fruit industry.
- A strong understanding of academic and governmental process needed to achieve research and regulatory priorities.

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.
- Knowledge of pesticide risk assessment and U.S. EPA process, including consultation with NOAA Fisheries and the Fish and Wildlife Service for the Endangered Species Act.
- Grant, research, or technical writing experience.

Education level:

- Master's degree in relevant scientific discipline a minimum, PhD a plus.

For confidential consideration as a candidate, please direct letter of interest to: NHC@krsearch.com