Forest Wildlife Specialist – Wisconsin

Location: Whitehall, Wisconsin
Region: Westcentral Wisconsin
Posting Open Date: December 13, 2021
Posting Close Date: January 14, 2022
Anticipated Start Date: February 28, 2022

RUSSIFIED GROUSE SOCIETY/AMERICAN WOODCOCK SOCIETY

The Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society (RGS/AWS) is seeking an outstanding individual to work with private land owners in Westcentral Wisconsin. With guidance from Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) staff, Forest Wildlife Specialist staff assist private land owners in accessing Farm Bill Forestry programs. RGS/AWS is a national, nonprofit group with a 60-year record of forest wildlife conservation.

Qualifications:

Bachelor’s Degree in Forestry, Wildlife Ecology, or closely related field. Preference will be given candidates who have professional experience related to forest and/or forest wildlife management. Experience working with private landowners to develop conservation plans is also beneficial.

Required Skills:

- Superior communication (written and oral) skills. Must be comfortable both speaking in public and in engaging landowners on a one-to-one basis.
- Willingness to be a vocal advocate for young forests and active forest management to landowners and natural resource professionals.
- Ability to work independently.
- Knowledge of forest ecology, forest management, and farming related to land management in the Driftless region of Wisconsin.
- Knowledge of basic principles of wildlife management.
- Solid understanding of wildlife habitat management techniques and goals, especially those related to the management of forest wildlife habitat.
- Knowledge of relevant conservation programs, including Federal Farm Bill programs (EQIP and CSP), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Partners for Fish & Wildlife program, WDNR Managed Forest Law program, and other applicable federal, state, and local conservation programs.
- Ability to work long hours in the field and under adverse weather conditions.
- Familiarity with MS Word, MS Excel and ArcGIS.
- Valid driver’s license required with an acceptable driving record.
Position Summary:

Work jointly with the Ruffed Grouse Society /American Woodcock Society (RGS/AWS) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to increase forest diversity and enhance habitat for forest wildlife by working with landowners to implement Federal Farm Bill and other wildlife conservation programs. The successful candidate will provide technical assistance to landowners to assist with the development of forest management plans and implementation of forest management practices via the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) and other federal, state, and local programs. Duties will also include contract development and coordination, site assessment and monitoring, accomplishment reporting, and development and implementation of outreach and educational efforts that will lead to broader adoption of active forest management by private landowners and public agencies. Coordinate outreach and wildlife habitat management efforts with RGS/AWS, NRCS, WDNR, and other partner staff, especially as related to the restoration and enhancement of young forest habitats. Attendance at relevant RGS/AWS, NRCS, and WDNR meetings will also be required.

Compensation:

Competitive salary, health insurance, and retirement options. A purchasing card for business and travel expenses. Training and support as needed to excel. Salary commensurate with experience.

To Apply:

Please email cover letter and resume combined in a single .pdf file by January 14, 2022 to jons@ruffedgrousesociety.org using “WI Forest Wildlife Specialist” as the email subject line. Submission of 3 references as part of application submission is required.

Questions regarding this position can be directed to Jon Steigerwaldt at 412-720-6033 (Jons@ruffedgrousesociety.org)