

Wildlife Forester – Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society

Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society, in partnership with Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Research Institute and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is looking for a motivated individual to work effectively with private forest owners and local conservation partners in the St. Lawrence & Lake Champlain Valley regions of northern New York. The selected individual will conduct outreach, collect, and review silvics data, draft forest management plans, create GIS mapping and prepare stands for implementation for private landowners interested in being part of NRCS's Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) partnership, which assists in the recovery of the Golden-winged Warbler (GWW), while also promoting forest health and timber production objectives.

The Golden-winged Warbler is a forest-dependent migratory songbird that is experiencing prolonged population declines throughout much of its range. Increasing the availability of young forest habitat is an important conservation action necessary for reversing the species' decline (as well as achieving long-term regional forestry objectives). In 2016, NRCS released a 5-year Strategy for the WLFW-Golden-winged Warbler partnership

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/plantsanimals/fishwildlife/?cid=stelprdb1046990>

which intended to create over 15,000 acres of young forest/shrubland habitat on private lands across 7 Appalachian states and the Northeast from 2017-2021.

The partnership exceeded this goal primarily through sustainable forest management by implementing NRCS conservation practices that are in line with Best Management Practices for Golden-winged Warbler Habitats in the eastern US. This position will help continue and build upon New York's NRCS's delivery of Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW). The NY Forester will also promote landowner enrollment in other conservation programs such as EQIP-Forestry or EQIP-Wildlife, as opportunities arise.

Location: within 50 miles of Watertown, NY

Application Deadline: April 25, 2022, or until suitable candidate is found

Initial Term of Position Funding: April 2022 to March 2024

Requirements

The New York WLFW-GWWA forester's main duties will be as follows.

Work with NRCS field offices, RGS & AWS staff, as well as local partners such as, NRCS, New York Department of Environmental Conservation, USFWS, NGOs (American Bird Conservancy) consulting foresters, and others to:

- Promote forest management that benefits healthy forests and the Golden-Winged Warbler to private landowners and consulting foresters; including the potential to help organize and conduct outreach and training workshops.
- Identify and directly outreach to private landowners with NRCS-based forest stewardship opportunities intended to benefit forest health and Golden-winged Warblers.
- Conduct site visits to provide technical assistance to interested landowners and advance GWW management plan development.
- Work with NRCS field offices in NY, and other professional resource managers to assist with tasks associated with drafting and implementation of conservation plans on private lands using established forest management guidelines known to benefit Golden-winged Warblers and improve forest health.
- Assist with monitoring and tracking project activities using an electronic database and GIS to ensure proper reporting for assessing success, and potentially assist with focal species monitoring.
- Assist resource professionals with development of site-specific forest management plans according to NRCS practice standards and focal species' best management practices. Successful candidate will provide evidence of being an effective writer.
- Write and submit monthly summaries, and interim and annual reports to RGS & AWS staff.

Position Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in forestry is required. A deep understanding of forest stand improvement practices and wildlife conservation.
- Professional knowledge and skills to assess, devise, and apply strategies for forest management as to meet desired forestry and wildlife habitat objectives. Experience developing and implementing site-specific forest management plans/practices, and the ability to utilize forest inventory tools/inventory protocol needed.
- Willing and able to travel throughout northern New York with occasional overnight travel. Applicant should be prepared to spend as much as 10% of their time away from home. RGS & AWS covers travel expenses.
- Experience working with private landowners as well as public agencies (NRCS, USFWS, state forestry and wildlife, etc.)
- Knowledge of NRCS landowner cost-share programs such as EQIP preferred.
- Proven ability to manage multiple projects, produce effective results and meet deadlines. Proven ability to be self-motivated, responsible and solve problems. Applicant must be able to develop and manage their daily work schedule to achieve results.
- Ability to use GIS software and programs, Google Maps, etc. to identify and delineate project boundaries; and Microsoft Excel and Database to manage information.
- The position requires excellent networking and communication skills (presentation, inter-personal, reading, and writing); project management experience, and organizing and leadership skills. Applicant should be a team player, but also work well independently.
- Willing and able to work in physically challenging environment under adverse conditions. RGS & AWS provides a GPS, cruising vest, prism, flagging, forestry paint, etc.
- Forester may be required to participate in specific NRCS training programs to use NRCS facilities, computers, and equipment. Applicant must have a valid driver's license.

The forester will likely be based out of a home office with access to NRCS field offices in Watertown, NY. The forester is an RGS & AWS employee and represents RGS & AWS in its work. The forester will be supervised by the RGS & AWS Northeast Forest Conservation Director in partnership with IUP-RI Project manager. There will be a 60-day probationary period.

Application Instructions: Please send a cover letter and resume (including names and contact information for 2 references) to:

Todd Waldron, RGS & AWS Northeast Forest Conservation Director – toddw@ruffedgrousesociety.org

* Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society is an equal opportunity employer

Job Information

- **Job ID:** 61028437
- **Location:**
Watertown, New York, United States
- **Position Title:** Wildlife Forester – Northern New York
- **Company Name:** Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society
- **Industry:** Forestry
- **Job Function:** Forester
- **Job Type:** Full-Time
- **Job Duration:** 2 Years
- **Min Education:** BA/BS/Undergraduate
- **Min Experience:** 3-5 Years
- **Required Travel:** 0-10%
- **Salary:** \$46,000.00 - \$50,000.00 (Yearly Salary)