



Job Type: Wildlife Specialist – Wisconsin

Location: Whitehall, Wisconsin

Region: Great Lakes Region

Posting Open Date: August 9, 2023

Posting Close Date: September 10, 2023

Term of Position: October 2023 to September 2026, likely to be extended with additional funding
Anticipated Start Date: October 16, 2023

Background:

Established in 1961, the Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS) is North America's foremost conservation organization dedicated to creating healthy forests, abundant wildlife, and promoting a conservation ethic. Together with the American Woodcock Society (AWS), established in 2014, RGS & AWS works with landowners and government agencies to develop critical wildlife habitat utilizing scientific management practices.

The Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society (RGS & AWS) has entered into a collaborative agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS). Together RGS & AWS and NRCS are looking for a motivated individual to work effectively with private landowners and other stakeholders in the west-central region of Wisconsin. The Forest Wildlife Specialist will function as a **Wildlife Forester**. Primary work duties will consist of assisting private land owners with forest management through federal Farm Bill programs, as well as various state and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) programs. Opportunities to travel within the region and be involved on various state and federal forest conservation projects may also be required. This may include technical assistance, field work, attending trainings and representing RGS & AWS at regular conservation planning meetings with various stakeholders. This position will also function as a private lands liaison between RGS & AWS and other partner agencies/organizations within the west-central region of Wisconsin. This includes: NRCS, USFWS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), the American Bird Conservancy, National Wild Turkey Federation and Trout Unlimited.

Qualifications:

- A degree in forestry and/or closely related field, with 2+ years of experience and/or a graduate degree in natural resource management.
- Knowledge of forest ecology, forest management, forest operations, silviculture and farming related to land management in the Driftless region of Wisconsin.
- Ability to assess wildlife habitat and make connections between forest management and wildlife habitat needs. Experience in prescribe fire and management is a plus.
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills, networking skills, well organized and ability to engage with a diversity of collaborators. Must be comfortable both speaking in public and in engaging landowners on a one-to-one basis.
- Ability to use MS Word, Excel, ArcGIS, Google Maps and other computer mapping systems to identify and delineate project boundaries.
- Willingness and ability to travel frequently throughout west-central Wisconsin and perform arduous field work on steep terrain and a variety of weather conditions.
- Applicant must be self-motivated and responsible. Required ability to work independently and manage multiple projects under deadlines. Ability to produce effective results and problem solve.



- The position will be required to participate in specific training programs to use partner facilities and equipment. Applicant must have a valid driver's license.

Position Summary:

Work jointly with the RGS & AWS and the 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, Conservation Stewardship Program and other federal, state and local programs. Duties will also include writing forest management plans, 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. Assisting with regional forest conservation projects on public and private lands as well as attending RGS & AWS member/fundraising events may be required.

Compensation:

The Salary Range is **\$50,000–\$59,900 per year plus benefits, health insurance and retirement options**. A vehicle or monthly vehicle stipend will be provided for business travel. A purchasing card for business and travel expenses, computer, printer, cell phone and office supplies will be provided. Training and support as needed to excel in this position.

Application Instructions:

Please email cover letter and resume combined in a single .pdf file by **September 10, 2023**, 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.