



**Job Type:** Forest Wildlife Specialist – Minnesota

**Location:** Northeast Minnesota

**Preferred Location:** Duluth or Cook, Minnesota

**Region:** Great Lakes Region

**Posting Open Date:** Feb. 2, 2024

**Posting Close Date:** March 10, 2024

**Term of Position:** April 2024 to April 2026. Likely to be extended with additional funding. Anticipated Start Date: April 1, 2024.

### **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 private landowners and government agencies to develop critical wildlife habitat utilizing scientific management practices.

RGS & AWS has entered into several collaborative agreements with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Together, RGS & AWS and USFS are looking for a motivated individual to work effectively with a diversity of public and private lands stakeholders in the northeast (Arrowhead) region of Minnesota. The forest wildlife specialist will function as a wildlife forester, leading several projects and providing assistance to the RGS & AWS state forest conservation coordinator.

### **Qualifications:**

- A degree in forestry and/or closely related field, with 3+ years of experience and/or a graduate degree in natural resource management.
- In-depth understanding of forest management, including forest operations, silviculture, forest product markets and environmental regulation. Ability to assess wildlife habitat and make connections between forest management and wildlife habitat needs.
- Knowledge of USDA Forest Service processes, regulations, policies, and directives (e.g., NFMA and NEPA). Previous experience working with the Forest Service or another federal agency is beneficial.
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills, networking skills, organization and ability to engage with diverse collaborators. Must be comfortable speaking in public and leading virtual and in-person meetings. Applicant will be expected to coordinate and facilitate meetings between diverse stakeholders.
- Ability to use Microsoft Office suite of programs.
- Ability to use ArcGIS, Google Maps and other computer mapping systems is required.
- Willingness and ability to frequently travel throughout northeast Minnesota and perform arduous fieldwork on variable terrain and under various 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 must participate in specific training programs to use partner facilities and equipment. Applicant must have a valid driver's license.



## **Position Summary:**

Work jointly with RGS & AWS and the USFS to increase forest diversity and enhance habitat for forest wildlife in Northeast Minnesota. With input from a wide range of partners representing a diversity of forest owners, managers, and stakeholders, develop Dynamic Forest Restoration Block (DFRB) planning criteria and draft DFRB management plans within priority landscapes. Lead Arrowhead Collaboration meetings and engage stakeholders and collaboration partners in planning efforts. Identify forest management, forest restoration and habitat projects that align with DFRB plans and apply for grant funding to execute discrete projects.

Duties also will include assisting the RGS & AWS state forest conservation coordinator with implementing other collaboratives, grants and agreements. This includes Forest Service Stewardship Agreements, Challenge Cost Share Agreements and Outdoor Heritage Fund grants. This will include conducting field forestry work, contracting and administering forest habitat projects, developing and conducting forest inventory/monitoring, completing accomplishment reports and assisting grant management staff with payment and reimbursement requests. Duties will encompass coordinating outreach and wildlife habitat management efforts with RGS & AWS, USFS, NRCS, MN DNR, counties and other partner staff, especially related to the restoration and enhancement of young forest habitats.

Attendance at relevant RGS & AWS, USFS and MN DNR meetings will be required. Assisting with regional forest conservation projects on public and private lands and attending RGS & AWS member/fundraising events may be required.

## **Compensation:**

Competitive compensation; health insurance including medical, dental and vision; retirement options including employer contribution; a government vehicle or vehicle stipend for business travel; a purchasing card for business and travel expenses; computer and printer; cell phone; office supplies. Salary commensurate with experience, **minimum starting \$50,000–\$62,000.**

## **Application Instructions:**

Please email a cover letter and resume combined in a single .pdf file by **April 1, 2024**, to [ScottJ@RuffedGrouseSociety.org](mailto:ScottJ@RuffedGrouseSociety.org) using "MN Forest Wildlife Specialist" as the email subject line. Submission of three references as part of the application submission is required.

Questions regarding this position can be directed to Scott Johnson at 412-860-3481 ([ScottJ@ruffedgrousesociety.org](mailto:ScottJ@ruffedgrousesociety.org)).