



Job Type: Forest Wildlife Specialist – Wisconsin

Location: Hayward, Wisconsin

Region: Great Lakes Region

Posting Open Date: May 20, 2024

Posting Close Date: June 16, 2024

Term of Position: July 2024 to July 2025, likely to be extended with additional funding. Anticipated Start Date: July 15, 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 work with private landowners and government agencies to develop critical wildlife habitat utilizing scientific management practices.

RGS & AWS has entered into a collaborative partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Together, RGS & AWS and DNR are looking for a motivated individual to work effectively with private landowners, industrial land owners, multiple state property managers, multiple county forests, and the Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest on forest habitat improvement initiatives in the north-west region of Wisconsin. The Forest Wildlife Specialist will function as a **Habitat Biologist**, providing technical service across multiple forest ownerships in Northern Wisconsin providing conservation technical assistance.

Qualifications:

- A degree in wildlife conservation, forestry, and/or closely related field, with 2+ years of experience and/or a graduate degree in natural resource management.
- Knowledge in the field of forest wildlife management, including: habitat management, young forest habitat management, deer management, vegetation surveys, and wildlife surveys. Experience in conservation biology, plan writing, and/or prescribed fire is a plus.
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills, networking skills, organization and ability to engage with diverse collaborators. Must be comfortable speaking in public and 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.
- Ability to track accomplishments and produce reports with guidance from other team members.
- Ability to use Excel, ArcGIS, Google Maps, and other computer mapping systems to identify and delineate project boundaries.
- Willingness and ability to frequently travel throughout north-west Wisconsin and perform arduous fieldwork on steep terrain and 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:

Functioning as a Habitat Biologist, the Forest Wildlife Specialist **main duties** will include working with a diversity of partners. This includes working with RGS & AWS staff, WI DNR staff, private land owners, County Foresters, USDA Forest Service staff, the American Bird Conservancy, Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership, US Fish and Wildlife Service, other conservation nonprofits, consulting foresters, timber purchasers, and other contractors to:

- Complete Level 2 & 3 Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP) enrollments, to include scheduling, site visits, and management plan delivery, as assigned by the DNR.
- Increase private landowner awareness of existing DNR, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Bill, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – Partners for Wildlife (USFWS-PFW), Wisconsin Young Forest Partnership (YFP), and other conservation partner habitat and public access programs.
- Provide technical and financial assistance to implement young forest wildlife habitat management projects in accordance with the Department’s Wildlife Management Program Young Forest Habitat Management Guidelines.
- Organize and implement annual workshops for landowners and partners that promote young forest, forest health, and other forest wildlife habitat management practices.
- Assist the U.S. Forest Service implement selected Good Neighbor Authority projects that provide young forest habitat or compatible access for hunters.
- Assist the DNR Wildlife Management Program with the development and implementation of young forest wildlife habitat projects and compatible access projects on DNR-managed lands, County-owned lands, and Federal lands.
- Meet with managers of Industrial Forest lands on opportunities to integrate management of both public and private lands to comprehensively maximize wildlife benefit and seek out partnership opportunities.
- Assist with completion of project planning prerequisites for both private and public lands (NEPA, National Heritage Inventory, and cultural resources reviews).
- Conduct wildlife surveys as assigned by the DNR and entering appropriate data into DNR systems
- Lead the administration of noncommercial treatments and commercial timber harvests to achieve desired forest conditions, including preparing bid announcements, selecting contractors, forest road maintenance, and performing site inspections and evaluations.
- Lead the administration of other contracts such as trailhead improvements or road access for habitat treatments.
- Lead volunteer efforts with RGS & AWS members and the public, including monitoring efforts, information or interpretive programs, and habitat workdays.
- Communicate the importance of active forest management to RGS & AWS members and the public during field trips, presentations, blog posts, and local media pitches.
- Maintain a database to track performance, achievements, and outcomes.
- Write and submit regular summaries, and interim and annual reports to RGS & AWS and partners.

The Forest Wildlife Specialist is a RGS & AWS employee and will represent RGS & AWS in its collaborative work, but will be based out of the Hayward, WI DNR office. The Forest Wildlife Specialist will be supervised by RGS & AWS’s Wisconsin Forest Conservation Coordinator, in partnership with the WI DNR and will receive daily assignments from WI DNR staff. There will be a 90-day probationary period.

The Integrated Forest Habitat Biologist positions are limited term positions with funding guaranteed until July 2025. These positions are likely to be extended with additional funding at that time.



Compensation:

Competitive compensation; health insurance including medical, dental and vision; retirement options including employer contribution; a vehicle stipend for all business travel; a purchasing card for business and travel expenses; computer and printer; cell phone; office supplies and continuing education training and support as needed will be provided.

Salary commensurate with experience, **minimum starting \$40,000-\$47,840.**

Application Instructions:

Please email a cover letter and resume combined in a single .pdf file by **June 16, 2024**, to jons@ruffedgrousesociety.org using "WI Forest Wildlife Specialist" as the email subject line. Submission of 3 references as part of the application submission is required.

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