



Forest Conservation Director – Eastern Great Lakes

Location: Remote or home office in Michigan (within ~130-mile radius of Lansing, MI)

Region: Eastern Great Lakes (Michigan, Indiana, Ohio)

Posting Open Date: current

Posting Close Date: Sept. 30, 2024 (or until filled by an exceptional candidate)

RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY/AMERICAN WOODCOCK SOCIETY

We are seeking an outstanding individual to lead forest wildlife programs in the Eastern Great Lakes Region. The Forest Conservation Director will build and manage a network to achieve forest wildlife habitat goals across three states.

The Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society (RGS/AWS) is a national, non-profit group with a 60-plus-year record of forest wildlife conservation.

Qualifications:

- A degree in forestry or a closely related natural resource field, with 5+ years of practical experience in forest management.
- In-depth understanding of forest management and wildlife habitat, including:
 - connections between forest management and wildlife needs
 - forest products and emerging markets (i.e., carbon, biodiversity, etc.)
 - forest management operations
 - silvicultural systems
 - third party certification
 - environmental regulations
- Experience in acquisitions, easements and similar land conservation transactions.
- Ability to lead and motivate. Excellent spoken and written communication skills. Well organized. Experience managing complex projects under deadlines.
- Willingness and ability to travel frequently throughout the region and all territories covered by RGS & AWS.
- Ability to establish a remote work location or home office.
- A passion for forest and wildlife conservation.

Position Summary:

The Forest Conservation Director will build and manage a network that achieves forest management goals across several states. The Director will help transition RGS/AWS from discrete projects toward scalable, landscape efforts. Specifically, the Director will:

- Strategize and oversee landscape initiatives, including habitat restoration, active management, and land conservation.
- Participate in planning for public forestlands and statutory/regulatory processes affecting forest and wildlife management.
- Pursue grants to fund the network, including staff and contracts for habitat work.
- Identify opportunities with foundations, public funding program officers, corporations, and other donors capable of magnifying the RGS & AWS mission.
- Ensure maximum impact of locally raised chapter funds.
- Utilize all forms of media to increase public awareness of the ecological and social benefits of forest management.
- Coordinate strategy with communication staff to ensure impactful communications.
- Serve in a lead role among agencies, forest owners, industry representatives, conservation groups and interested parties to promote forest conservation.
- Commit to local, on-the-ground involvement with people and communities.
- Participate on regional and national boards and stakeholder groups to promote forest conservation.
- Advise policy staff of opportunities for RGS & AWS to engage on legislative issues at local, state and national levels.
- Prepare and deliver testimony as an upper level RGS & AWS representative.
- Engage others through dynamic enthusiasm and shared vision.
- Recruit, hire and supervise staff who plan and implement projects.
- Participate in fundraising to increase conservation mission impact.
- Keep up to date on scientific research relevant to forest wildlife management.
- Make independent decisions based on analysis, experience and judgment.

Compensation: Competitive compensation; health insurance including medical, dental and vision; retirement options including employer match; a company vehicle or vehicle stipend for business travel; a purchasing card for business and travel expenses; computer and printer; cell phone; office supplies and support will be provided.

The salary scale for this role accounts for a range of considerations including skill set, experience, training and certifications as well as business and organizational needs. A reasonable estimate of the starting salary range is \$75,000 to \$85,000 commensurate with experience. With time on the job and optimal performance, salary could extend beyond \$100,000.

Application Instructions: Please email a cover letter and resume combined in a single .pdf file by Sept. 30, 2024, to Careers@RuffedGrouseSociety.org using "Forest Conservation Director" as the email subject line.