



Forest Conservation Director – Southern Appalachians

Location: Remote or home office in eastern Tennessee/western North Carolina (greater Asheville – Knoxville – Johnson City area)

Region: Southern Appalachians



Posting Open Date: Current

Posting Close Date: Dec. 1, 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 southern Appalachian Region. The region includes western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, southwestern Virginia, southern Kentucky, northern Georgia, and upstate South Carolina.

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 oversee a network that achieves forest management goals across several states.

- Strategize and oversee landscape initiatives, including habitat restoration, active management, and land conservation.
- Participate in planning for public forestlands and 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 programs, 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 Dec. 1, 2024, to Careers@RuffedGrouseSociety.org using “Apps - Forest Conservation Director” as the email subject line.