



Job Type: Forest Wildlife Specialist – Minnesota

Location: Northeast, Minnesota

Preferred Location: Duluth, Two Harbors, or Virginia, Minnesota

Region: Western Great Lakes Region

Posting Open Date: November 5th, 2025

Posting Close Date: December 1st, 2025

Term of Position: January, 2026 to January, 2030. Likely to be extended with additional funding.
Anticipated Start Date: January 5th, 2026.

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 several collaborative agreements with the U.S. Forest Services (USFS), MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Nature Conservancy (TNC); among others. Chiefly among these is phase 5 funding of the MN Moose Habitat Collaborative. RGS & AWS is looking for a motivated individual to work effectively with a diversity of public stakeholders in northeast Minnesota to lead the MN Moose Habitat Collaborative. The Forest Wildlife Specialist will function as a Wildlife Forester and report 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. Professional experience in large ungulate ecology is a plus.
- 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 may 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 RGS & AWS, USFS, MN DNR, TNC, counties, and tribes to increase forest diversity and enhance forest wildlife habitat in Northeast Minnesota through the MN Moose Habitat Collaborative. With input from a wide range of partners representing a diversity of forest owners, managers, and stakeholders; manage and oversee habitat conservation projects and programs within the moose priority landscapes and the greater NE MN. Lead the MN Moose Habitat Collaboration, conducting meetings and engaging stakeholders and collaboration partners in planning efforts. Identify forest management, forest restoration, and habitat projects that align with Collaborative objectives and apply for additive grant funding to execute discrete projects.

Duties will also include assisting the RGS & AWS State Forest Conservation Coordinator with implementing other collaboratives, grants, and agreements. This includes Forest Service Stewardship Agreements and Challenge Cost Share Agreements on the Superior and Chippewa National Forests. This will consist of conducting field forestry work such as timber sale prep, contracting and administering forest habitat projects, develop and conduct forest recon/inventory/monitoring, complete accomplishment reports and assist grant management staff with payment and reimbursement requests. Coordinate outreach and wildlife habitat management efforts with RGS & AWS, USFS, MN DNR, TNC, counties and tribes, especially related to the restoration and enhancement of young forest habitats.

Attendance at relevant RGS & AWS, USFS and MN DNR meetings will also 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; travel reimbursement; 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 **December 1st, 2025**, to ScottJ@RuffedGrouseSociety.org using "MN 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 Scott Johnson at 412-860-3481 (ScottJ@ruffedgrousesociety.org)