Arkansas WLFW Prescribed Fire Coordinator - CWB II

Location TBD (statewide coverage)

(Office space provided in a USDA Service Center)

Application Deadline: August 15th, 2023

Start Date: September 2023

Overview: In partnership with the USDA - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Northern Bobwhite Initiative, the Arkansas Quail Forever Prescribed Fire Coordinator will work closely with partners and private landowners to coordinate prescribed fire delivery in Arkansas. A primary duty will be to coordinate and provide support to the growing Prescribed Burn Association program in Arkansas. This position will also work closely with AGFC and NRCS state and county level staff on the planning and implementation of prescribed fire and fire breaks on Acres for Wildlife, EQIP, CSP, and RCPP projects following appropriate standards and specifications. This position will require a self-starter with excellent communication and organizational skills and a strong work ethic. This position provides an opportunity to make significant contributions to the conservation of natural resources in Arkansas. This position will be a full-time employee of Pheasants Forever Inc., and Quail Forever.

Specific Duties:
• Work with AGFC Private Lands staff and PBA members and leadership to provide support to the Arkansas PBAs to include growing membership and increasing prescribed fire delivery on the ground.
• Conduct quarterly and yearly meetings with PBA leadership to increase knowledge, accountability, and compliance.
• Coordinate the purchasing, check out, and maintenance of PBA trailers and equipment needs for PBAs, and provide support for the creation of new PBAs.
• Work closely with Arkansas NRCS state and field office staff to support the proper planning and implementation of prescribed fire and fire break practices, to include training on standards and specifications, reviewing burn plans, offer planning technical assistance, and providing check-out and certification assistance as needed.
• Work closely with Arkansas Forestry Division to coordinate program delivery, prescribed fire implementation, and receive updated information regarding prescribed fire classes, certifications, and policy.
• Serve as a leader to Arkansas QF, AGFC, and NRCS staff to increase and enhance prescribed fire training opportunities for private landowners, resource professionals, and fire enthusiasts.
• Meet and understand requirements of Quail Forever’s Prescribed Fire Policy, direct QF in Arkansas staff to meet QF’s policy, and communicate within the organization on policy updates or changes.
• Prepare presentations, webinars, and workshop opportunities as needed concerning prescribed fire for training and outreach purposes in the state.
• Increase credibility and support of prescribed fire with private landowners, federal and state agencies, non-governmental organizations, and stakeholders.
• Serve as a representative on the Arkansas Fire Council and communicate regularly with Arkansas prescribed fire practitioners across the state to build upon the use of prescribed fire.
• Provide support as needed to the QF Habitat Specialist crew on burn entry, burn plan creation and review.
• Participate in and lead prescribed burns, to include training burns, ensuring adherence to prescription and the safety of participants, neighbors, and the public.
Desired Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Extensive knowledge and experience with prescribed fire and/or wildfire as it pertains to the South or Southeast US.
- Holds appropriate prescribed fire certifications per National Wildfire Coordinating Group:
  - EX: S-130, S-190, L-180, ICS-100, S-290, etc.
  - Will obtain Arkansas Certified Prescribed Burn qualification after employment.
  - Current Pack Test or ability to acquire Pack Test in first year.
  - CRWB - desired but not required.
- Knowledge of wildlife ecology, wetland and grassland management including the ability to utilize various habitat management tools in the development of management plans.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agencies.
- Ability to work independently with little supervision and with diverse clientele.
- Knowledge of conservation and wildlife programs provided by Federal agencies (i.e. USDA and US Fish and Wildlife Service), state agencies, private partners and QF. In addition, knowledge of how these programs are implemented in a Working Lands landscape is desired.
- Excellent computer skills including working knowledge of MS Word, MS Excel, and ArcPro.
- Demonstrated experience as a leader with strong initiative.
- Ability to organize, develop, and implement educational and outreach activities, including workshops, seminars, and publications.
- Excellent and proven verbal/written communication and organizational skills.
- Conflict resolution skills.
- Valid driver’s license required; work vehicle provided; some use of personal vehicle required (mileage reimbursement provided).
- Able to obtain USDA Federal Security Clearance.

Education and Experience Preferred: A minimum requirement for this position is a Bachelor of Science Degree in forestry, wildlife management, plant ecology, fire ecology, or a closely related natural resources field with a minimum of two years related experience, or a Master’s Degree in the same fields listed above. Experience working with State and Federal cost-share programs (AFW, EQIP, CSP, RCPP, and CRP) is preferred. Prescribed fire training, certifications, and field experience as outlined above is required. Knowledge of Forestry and Working Lands agricultural operations is desired.

Starting Salary: $52,000 + benefits (see benefits summary on our Careers page at www.quailforever.org/jobs )

To Apply: Please combine your cover letter, resume, and 3 references into a single Microsoft Word document or PDF file before uploading to the “Resume” area of your application on the Recruitment website at: www.quailforever.org/jobs. Our benefit summary is also viewable on this page.

If you have questions, please contact: Ryan Parker, Arkansas State Coordinator, rparker@quailforever.org or (307) 321-6295

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