Coordinating Wildlife Biologist I or II
Tucson, AZ

1 Opening: Tucson Regional Office of the Arizona Game and Fish Dept.

Application Deadline: Open until filled, applications will be reviewed, and interviews conducted on an ongoing basis.

Anticipated Start Date: August 2023

Overview: This position is in the Tucson Regional Office of the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) and will be a direct employee of Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever (QF). The position will serve as the regional private and public lands lessee coordinator for AZGFD, which provides Farm Bill program technical assistance and broad-based conservation program funding to landowners; provide work on improving wildlife habitat at a landscape scale, work to deliver smaller scale relationship building and recreational access projects with producers through the AZGFD’s Landowner Relations Program, and work with local QF chapters in Arizona. This position also serves as the senior coordinating biologist in Arizona for QF. All work will be consistent with and directed to achieve conservation goals of all cooperating partners’ programs.

Duties:
- Plans, organizes, monitors, and implements activities and projects that improve habitat or secure recreational access for hunters (and other recreationists) in association with AZGFD’s statewide Landowner Relations and Habitat Enhancement Program (LRHEP) and coordinating with the Phoenix Headquarters and Tucson Regional Office of AZGFD.
- Write and administer grants including any required performance reporting and budget tracking.
- Identify landscape level habitat restoration projects that benefit Arizona quail species and all wildlife, and work to coordinate with land management agency and landowner partners to plan and implement large scale habitat restoration projects.
- Works with landowners, farmers, ranchers, land management agencies, and non-profit organizations to foster strong relationships, and incorporate wildlife concerns into the planning and implementation of land management activities.
- Works collaboratively with local NRCS field offices to provide wildlife expertise for staff and landowners working with NRCS.
- Negotiates projects and agreements with landowners/lessees to enhance and conserve sensitive wildlife habitat and special status species on lands they manage.
- Works closely with landowners and land management agencies to resolve issues, concerns and problems with wildlife habitat or recreational access.
- Executes and implements all types of agreements with landowners and land management agencies associated with the Department’s LRHEP.
- Serve as a point of contact for the region on all landscape level restoration projects and is the staff liaison to the Habitat Partnership Committees in the region.
- In addition, works closely with NRCS staff and landowners to promote Farm Bill programs.
- Provides staff support in ensuring required documentation for project compliance (NEPA, ESA, etc).
• Conducts wildlife and wildlife habitat surveys of public and private lands to determine opportunities for wildlife habitat improvements or mitigating recreational access issues.
• Uses technical equipment such as GPS, computers, etc.
• Presents programs to landowners, technical meetings, and public information opportunities.
• Assist with hunter recruitment/retention events as necessary
• Assists the Arizona State Coordinator with quarterly and annual performance reports for the partnership with AZGFD
• Assist the Arizona State Coordinator with Arizona QF staff meetings, recommend trainings for staff, and provide guidance and mentoring for new staff in Arizona.
• Performs other duties and responsibilities as needed.
• Acts as a liaison for QF and AZGFD with the Agriculture Community, Sportsmen groups, and non-profit entities engaged in habitat restoration or securing recreational access.

**Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:**
The ideal candidate will be a highly motivated, self-starter who has substantial knowledge of Arizona wildlife species, their habitat requirements, common habitat restoration techniques, and have the ability to effectively coordinate, cooperate, and communicate with landowners, lessees, and agencies as an implementer of conservation and habitat enhancement projects to improve wildlife habitat and wildlife populations. Knowledge of computer programs such as Word, Outlook, Excel, G Suite is required and experience with GIS software (ARCGIS) is desirable.

**Training and Experience Guideline:**
Bachelor’s degree in a wildlife science or closely related field from an accredited college or university, and two years of professional experience in wildlife research or wildlife management. A graduate degree in a wildlife science or a closely related field may substitute for one year of the required experience.

**Salary:** up to $55,000 depending on experience + benefits. Raises will be considered annually as deemed appropriate.

**To Apply:** Please combine your cover letter, resume and 3 references into a single Microsoft Word document or Adobe Acrobat PDF before uploading to the “Resume” section of your application on our Recruitment website at www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs. Your cover letter should outline your experience and interest in this position. If you have questions, contact Scott Poppenberger, Southwest State Coordinator, spoppenberger@pheasantsforever.org or 928-308-2042.

Pheasants Forever, Inc and Quail Forever is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, status as a protected veteran, status as a qualified individual with disability, or any other category that may be protected by law.