JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Location: Blacksburg, South Carolina and Kings Mountain National Military Park

Application Deadline: September 10, 2023
Start Date: October 1, 2023

Overview: In partnership with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the National Park Service (NPS), and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) this Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist will coordinate and implement wildlife habitat-related conservation programs and provide technical assistance within the South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative’s 10 Focal Area counties. The position will be headquartered in the Blacksburg USDA Service Center and Kings Mountain National Military Park Office. This individual will work in joint capacity with partner agencies to promote, coordinate and implement conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill on public and private lands, with primary focus on the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Bobwhite Quail Pine Savanna Project. Conservation delivery may also involve other relevant Farm Bill programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), general EQIP, and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP), as well as state and local habitat programs and initiatives. General duties will include all aspects of wildlife habitat planning, contract coordination, conservation plan writing, site assessment/eligibility determination, program promotion/outreach, landowner technical assistance, prescribed burning and reporting.

Specific Duties:

- Provide technical assistance (wildlife habitat focus) and guidance to private landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and other groups for USDA NRCS conservation programs. Training provided jointly by NRCS, NPS, SCDNR, and QF.
- Coordinate the implementation and application of wildlife habitat programs within the South Carolina Bobwhite Initiative Focal Areas and Kings Mountain Quail Focal Area with partner agencies.
- Complete conservation plans, job sheets, wildlife habitat evaluation guides (WHEG) and other required documentation for the conservation programs requiring biological expertise in cooperation with the listed partners.
- Plan and assist with prescribed burning on NPS property.
- Communicate program requirements, complete site visits to determine eligibility, and develop contract documents for applicants and participants of USDA-NRCS conservation programs and other local and state programs.
- Review plans and specifications for feasibility for implementation under Farm Bill program contract rules, etc.
- Accelerate conservation program enrollment by conducting outreach such as workshops, field days, demonstration events, and habitat tours.
- Provide on-site landowner technical assistance for conservation practice and quality habitat implementation.
- Work with local QF chapters to assist with habitat program education and outreach and provide technical assistance for habitat projects.

Desired Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agencies.
- Ability to work independently and with diverse clientele. Must be a motivated self-starter with strong interpersonal skills.
• Knowledge of, and/or practical experience with silviculture and prescribed fire as it relates to timber management and production in the Southeastern US.
• Knowledge of wildlife ecology, forest and grassland management including the ability to utilize various habitat management tools in the development of management plans.
• Knowledge of conservation and wildlife programs provided by federal (i.e., Farm Bill, US Fish and Wildlife Service), state, & local entities.
• S130, S190 Wildland Firefighter Certification, or a willingness to obtain them shortly after hiring.
• Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
• Strong organizational skills, with demonstrated ability to manage demanding workloads.
• Proficiency with ArcGIS, GPS, Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.)
• Valid driver’s license required; some use of personal vehicle required (mileage reimbursement provided).
• Must be able to obtain USDA Federal Security Clearance.

Training and Experience Guideline: Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management, Forestry, or closely related natural resources field is required. A Master’s Degree is preferred. Proven experience working with USDA Farm Bill programs is also preferred. The ideal candidate will exhibit a balance of technical knowledge and interpersonal skills required to implement voluntary conservation programs on private lands. A successful applicant must enjoy working with private landowners to achieve their objectives. Demonstrated interest, training, and experience in both forestry and wildlife is also ideal.

Starting Salary: $42,000+ Benefits; Dormitory style housing provided by NPS at the Kings Mountain National Military Park if desired.

To Apply: Please combine your cover letter, resume, and 3 references into a single Word document or PDF file before uploading to the “Resume” area of your application on our Recruitment website www.quailforever.org/jobs For additional questions please contact Tim Caughran, Quail Forever, South Region Director of Conservation Delivery, tcaughran@quailforever.org

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