Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist

Locations:
Baxter, Izard, and Stone Counties (Melbourne, AR)

Application Deadline: Nov 26th, 2018

Start Date: January 7th, 2018

Working Lands for Wildlife Position Note
These positions are part of a collaborative partnership among Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and other partners to increase technical assistance capacity for advancing the implementation of the Working Lands for Wildlife Bobwhite (WLFW) projects. The WLFW initiative supports voluntary conservation projects in priority working landscapes to benefit target species including the bobwhite quail. These positions will be employees of, and supervised by, Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever.

Associated WLFW positions have been posted in state-level announcements (One announcement per state in Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Missouri, New Jersey, Ohio, and South Carolina). Applicants interested in applying for Pheasants Forever, Inc WLFW positions in MULTIPLE states MUST complete the application process for the appropriate state announcement.

Overview:
In partnership with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Farm Bill Biologist (FBB) will serve to coordinate and implement wildlife-related conservation programs and provide technical assistance within their assigned districts. FBB will be located within the Northern Quail Focal Landscape in the State of Arkansas and will provide service across multiple counties. Staff will work in joint capacity with AGFC, NRCS, and the Farm Service Agency (FSA) to promote, coordinate and implement conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill (EQIP, WLFW, RCPP, CRP, CCRP, ACEP & CSP) and other related wildlife conservation programs as well as assist in delivery of state level habitat programs and initiatives. General duties will include wildlife habitat planning, contract coordination, writing plans, site assessment and reporting. Biologists will provide technical assistance for wildlife habitat enhancement techniques to private landowners and public organizations. Meet with local chapters of Quail Forever to help coordinate habitat management efforts and participate in county and statewide habitat meetings. Meet regularly with AGFC, QF and USDA staff to coordinate technical assistance efforts.

Specific Duties:
• Provide technical assistance (biology focus) and guidance to private landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and other groups for USDA NRCS Conservation Programs. The positions will receive training on the USDA NRCS Conservation Programs, Quail Forever, AGFC and other local and state programs.
• Coordinate the implementation and application of wildlife programs within the Focal Landscapes in cooperation with the local NRCS, AGFC private lands biologists, QF Biologists, and other state partners as appropriate.
• Completes contracts, applications and other required documentation for the conservation programs requiring biological expertise in cooperation with the listed partners.
• Communicates program requirements, completes site visits to determine eligibility, and develops contracts/plans for applicants/participants for the USDA-NRCS Conservation Programs and other local and state programs.
• Performs other related duties as assigned.

Desired Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:
• Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agencies.
• Ability to work independently with little supervision and with diverse clientele.
• Knowledge of, and/or practical experience with, agricultural operations with emphasis on livestock and grazing systems.
• Knowledge of wildlife ecology, woodland 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. In addition, knowledge of how these programs are implemented in an agricultural landscape is desired.
• Excellent verbal and written communication.
• Strong organizational skills.
• Proficiency with ArcGIS and USDA Toolkit.
• 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. Proven experience working with USDA Farm Bill programs (CRP, CREP, ACEP, EQIP and CSP) is preferred. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management, Range Management, or closely related natural resources field is required.

**Starting Salary:** $33,000 + Health Benefits and Retirement Package

**ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.** Please combine your cover letter, resume, and 3 references into a single Word document or PDF file on the Recruitment website.

**To Apply:** please visit our website at [www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs) For additional questions please contact: Ryan Diener, Senior Farm Bill Biologist at rdiener@pheasantsforever.org or (636) 399-8733.

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