JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Coordinating Wildlife Biologist – USDA Easement Specialist

3 Locations – Aberdeen, Huron, Sisseton

Application Deadline: October 11, 2018

Anticipated Start Date: November 2018

Overview & Job Duties:
Work in a joint capacity with Pheasants Forever, Inc. (PF) and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) staff within South Dakota to assist with development of restoration plans, monitor existing easements, develop new easement contracts, and provide outreach on various topics related to the Agriculture Conservation Easement Program (ACEP). Provide technical assistance for wildlife habitat enhancement techniques to private landowners and public organizations. Meet with local chapters of Pheasants Forever and other local partners to influence habitat management efforts and participate in statewide habitat meetings. Attend appropriate USDA and Pheasants Forever training and assist in coordinating technical assistance efforts throughout South Dakota.

This announcement is for 3 NEW positions located in Aberdeen, Huron, and Sisseton South Dakota. Work will be conducted throughout the state of South Dakota dependent on program and county office needs. The incumbent is an employee of Pheasants Forever, Inc. and will receive primary supervision from Pheasants Forever with daily instruction provided by the local USDA-NRCS staff. The incumbents serve as a USDA, NRCS Conservation Programs Biologist providing biological/wildlife aspects of all USDA NRCS Conservation Programs and PF programs to private landowners and participants.

Duties:
• Provide technical assistance (biology focus) and guidance to private landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and other groups for the USDA NRCS Agriculture Conservation Easement Program. The positions will also receive training on other USDA NRCS Conservation Programs, Pheasants Forever, SDGFP and other local and state programs.
• Coordinate the implementation and application of biological sciences within ACEP contracts in cooperation with the local NRCS, District Conservationist, SDGFP private lands biologist, PF Biologists, and others.
• Complete contracts, applications and other required documentation for ACEP requiring biological expertise in cooperation with the listed partners and NRCS, District Conservationist.
• 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.
• Develop restoration plans for existing USDA easement holders to improve easement acres for wildlife habitat and landowner goals and objectives.
• Coordinate and implement monitoring activities for existing USDA easements in position area for all PF staff.
• Performs other related duties as assigned.

Required 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 wildlife ecology, wetland 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.
• Valid driver’s license required; some use of personal vehicle required (mileage reimbursement provided).
• Able to obtain USDA Federal Security Clearance.
**Experience Guideline:** A Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management, Range Science or closely related natural resources field is required. Demonstrated experience with USDA Farm Bill programs is preferred and an understanding of local agricultural practices is very beneficial.

**Starting Salary:** $40,000 + Health Benefits and Retirement Package

**To Apply:** Visit our website at: [www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs](http://www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs)

ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Please include your cover letter, resume and 3 references as one Word document or PDF file on the Recruitment website.

*Pheasants Forever & Quail Forever is an EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled*