Habitat Forever, LLC

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Habitat Specialists
Kansas
(2 positions)

Application Deadline: May 21, 2020

Locations: Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area and Melvern Wildlife Area

Anticipated Start Date: June 2020

Overview: These positions are part of a partnership between Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) and Habitat Forever, LLC (HF). The incumbents will conduct habitat management work on public wildlife management areas. They are full-time, permanent employees of Habitat Forever and will receive daily leadership from KDWP Field Managers. These Habitat Specialist positions will be located at Tuttle Creek WA, Blue Rapids, Kansas; or Melvern Wildlife Area, Reading, Kansas.

Duties: The incumbents will assist with all aspects of managing the assigned wildlife management area. Major responsibilities include:
- Directing, supervising, and implementing habitat management work on public wildlife areas;
- Procuring supplies and equipment;
- Supervising and participating in the construction, maintenance and repair of area buildings, equipment, and roads;
- Coordinating agricultural permits to insure positive benefits for wildlife;
- Providing public information;
- Participating in scientific field studies and surveys;
- Participating in training and evaluation of seasonal employees.
- Performs other related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge Skills and Abilities:
- A basic understanding of environmental, agricultural and/or natural resource science. Education may be substituted for experience as determined relevant by the partners. Preference will be given to candidates that possess a bachelor’s degree with an emphasis in wildlife management;
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with colleagues and partner agencies;
- Ability to work independently with little supervision;
- Knowledge of wildlife ecology, wetland and grassland management including the ability to utilize various habitat management equipment and tools in the development of wildlife habitat;
- Prescribed Fire experience and formal fire training is important.
- Excellent verbal/written communication and organizational skills;
-Valid driver’s license required.

Training and Experience Guideline: Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities. One year of work experience in a wildlife management related job. Ability to maintain, operate, and transport farm machinery needed for broad range of habitat projects. A general qualification guideline for this position is a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management or closely related natural resources field and/or related field experience.

Pay: $32,000.00 Salary depending on experience and qualifications + Health and Retirement Benefits.

To Apply: Visit our Recruitment website at www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs
ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Please combine your cover letter explaining why this position is a good fit for you, resume, and 3 references into a single Word document or PDF file on the Recruitment website. Also, indicate which specific position(s) you are applying for.

If you have additional questions, please contact Matt O’Connor, Habitat Forever Coordinator 563-926-2357, moconnor@pheasantsforever.org

_Pheasants Forever, Inc & Habitat Forever, LLC is an EEO Employer/Vet/Disabled_

**Tuttle Creek Wildlife Area**
Tuttle Creek Lake is situated in the beautiful Flint Hills region of Kansas. The lake is the second largest in the state offering 12,000 acres of water and 100 miles of irregular wooded shoreline. Tuttle Creek Lake, being the key unit of the flood control projects within the Kansas River Basin, may swell to 54,000 acres. KDWPT also manages 12,200 acres of land on the north end of the lake for wildlife benefit. In addition to permanent habitat enhancement, KDWPT provides 3,220 acres of cropland for winter food. Because of the flooding, area management will focus on enhancing wetland habitat. 480 Acres of constructed wetlands provide food and shelter to migrating shorebirds and waterfowl. Other species managed for include white-tailed deer, turkey, quail, pheasants, squirrels and doves.

**Melvern Wildlife Area**
Melvern Wildlife Area is in the physio-graphic area known as Osage Cuestas. Much of the upland area is dominated by native tall grass prairie with small wooded draws interspersed. The lowlands located along the Marais des Cygnes river flood plain is primarily crop land. The area habitats include approximately 4,000 acres of native tall grass prairie, 2,000 acres of woodland habitat, and 3,000 acres of crop land. Management tools include prescribed fire and crop rotations.

Moist soils management is conducted on all marshes which uses water level fluctuations to manage for desirable wetland vegetation beneficial to migratory birds. Periodically, some marshes will be drained to conduct dike repairs and control invading woody vegetation and cattails. Management of upland habitats over the years has consisted of converting croplands and cool season grasses to native warm season grasses and forbs, planting of shrub plots, selective cutting of invading woody vegetation, and prescribed burning to stimulate native warm season grasses and forbs.

White-tailed deer and wild turkey are plentiful on the area. Waterfowl numbers vary depending on available habitat, but the area has supported large numbers during both the fall and spring migrations. Mourning dove numbers vary yearly depending on nesting conditions. Ring-necked pheasant can be found in small numbers on the area. Bobwhite quail populations are excellent on the area, but a good dog is needed due to the dense vegetation. Squirrel and cottontail rabbit numbers are generally healthy and provide some of the most underutilized hunting opportunities on the area.

Non-game species are very plentiful on the area and provide some of the best wildlife viewing opportunities. A wide array of mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians can be found on the area. Fishing for catfish, white bass, and crappie in the Marais des Cygnes River are also popular activities. Trapping which is allowed on the area, can be a very successful venture due to the wide array of furbearer habitats.