Range & Wildlife Conservationist

Application Deadline: May 6th, 2019?
Location: Billings, MT

Anticipated Start Date: June 15th, 2019

Overview: This position is located in the USDA field office in Yellowstone County, Montana and will provide conservation services for wildlife conservation in Yellowstone County, Montana and the surrounding counties.

The incumbent will serve as a Range & Wildlife Conservationist providing biological/wildlife technical assistance for USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Yellowstone Conservation District (YCD), Pheasants Forever Inc. and Quail Forever (PF/QF), Audubon Society and our other local partners. The successful applicant will deliver conservation programs to farmers, ranchers and other landowners primarily in the interest of rangeland sustainability for ranching and wildlife. The position will be an employee of and be supervised by Pheasants Forever, Inc. with daily instruction and leadership provided by NRCS District Conservationist and local partners. Funding is provided by the Natural Resource Conservation Service, Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, the Audubon Society and other local partners.

Duties:

- Provide technical assistance (wildlife habitat focus) and guidance to landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and others (training will be provided by the NRCS, PF/QF, and other organizations).
- Coordinate the implementation and application of wildlife habitat within conservation programs in cooperation with NRCS District Conservationist, and others.
- Complete contracts, applications and other required documentation for conservation programs offered through the NRCS Conservation Programs, and other conservation programs.
- Communicate program requirements, complete site visits to determine eligibility, and develop plans and contracts for applicants enrolling in NRCS Conservation Programs or other state and local conservation programs.
- Coordinate education and outreach efforts to assist YCD with multiple events, including youth outreach events and conservation project tours.
- Coordinate outreach efforts to assist Audubon with the Conservation Ranching program, including communicating program availability, completing site visits to determine eligibility, and developing conservation plans to meet the standards of the program.
- Seek funding opportunities from new partners to leverage NRCS financial assistance programs.
- Assess feasibility of Audubon’s Conservation Ranching program in Montana, and serve as the point of contact for Audubon MT and PF on this program.
- Perform 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 and techniques in the development of management plans.
- Knowledge of conservation and wildlife programs provided through USDA Conservation Programs, Montana state agencies, and other conservation partners. In addition, knowledge of how these programs are implemented in an agricultural and range landscape is desired.
- Knowledge of conservation and wildlife programs provided by Federal (i.e. Farm Bill, US Fish and Wildlife Service), State agencies and PF. In addition, knowledge of how these programs are implemented in an agricultural landscape is desired.
- Ability to apply and use GIS tools (i.e. GPS, ARC Map, etc.).
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong organizational skills.
- Valid driver’s license required; work vehicle provided; some use of personal vehicle required (mileage reimbursement provided).
- 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 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. Experience working with private land habitat planning is highly desirable.

**Salary Range:** $34,000 – $38,000 + 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 combine your cover letter, resume and 3 references as a single Word document or PDF file before uploading to the Recruitment website.

*Pheasants Forever Inc. and Quail Forever are EEO Employers/Vet/Disabled.*