



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Sage Grouse Initiative **Rangeland Ecologist**

Location: Ogden or Tremonton, Utah

Application Deadline: December 1, 2013 **Anticipated Start Date:** early January 2014

Description:

This position is part of a collaborative effort among the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), Mule Deer Foundation (MDF), Utah Chukar Foundation (UCF), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTf), Safari Club and Pheasants Forever to further the delivery of the NRCS Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI). This position provides sage grouse-related range / wildlife / habitat technical assistance for SGI and associated Farm Bill conservation programs to agricultural producers and private landowners. This position will be an employee of the Mule Deer Foundation which will provide strategic goals and oversight with daily instruction and leadership provided by the NRCS Area Conservationist. The position will be located in an NRCS office. **NOTE: This position is currently funded for 3 years.**

Duties:

- Provide range ecology expertise and technical assistance and guidance to landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations (NGO's) and others for sage grouse habitat conservation planning.
- Coordinate the implementation of habitat restoration and enhancement in cooperation with the local NRCS District Conservationist, private landowners, and other partners.
- Create interest in sage grouse habitat management, restoration, and enhancement and produce landowner applications for Farm Bill programs.
- Manage contracts and other required documentation for Farm Bill conservation programs (i.e. EQIP, WHIP, FRPP, GRP, CRP and WRP) requiring biological and rangeland science expertise in cooperation with the partners. This includes locating SGI opportunities, partner coordination, planning, contracting, and project oversight to completion.
- Communicate program requirements and complete site visits to determine eligibility for applicants enrolling in USDA conservation programs or other state and local conservation programs for the protection, restoration and enhancement of sage grouse habitat.
- Coordinate and participate in field work activities for sage grouse habitat project implementation.
- Perform other related duties as assigned.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- A general qualification guideline for this position is a Bachelor of Science Degree in Rangeland Science, Wildlife Biology, or similar degree from an accredited university and course work and/or experience in integrating wildlife management principles into range management systems.
- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agencies.
- Knowledge of range science and wildlife ecology including the ability to develop prescribed grazing plans that include wildlife habitat management objectives.
- Must be able to synthesize and balance needs of livestock, sage grouse, other wildlife, and other conservation opportunities.
- Expertise in sage grouse biology.
- Knowledge of northern Utah flora and fauna, particularly sage steppe communities.
- Knowledge of various treatments to sage steppe and the effects on the plant and animal communities.
- Able to obtain USDA Security Clearance.
- Must be a self-starter who can work independently.
- Must be willing and able to perform administrative work in a controlled environment/office setting for an eight-hour workday.
- Must be willing and able to travel on a regular basis, year round, and work in remote locations, often alone in inclement weather or adverse conditions.
- Working knowledge of Microsoft Word, Outlook, PowerPoint, Excel and Access and GIS mapping software.
- Excellent verbal/written communication and organizational skills.
- Valid driver's license.

Salary: \$35,000 - \$40,000 per year based on experience + Health and Retirement Benefits.

Location: This position may be placed in Ogden or Tremonton Utah. This is to be determined at the time of selection.

To Apply: Email a cover letter, resume, and three references with contact information in one Microsoft Word or PDF document entitled "LastName_OgdenSGI_MDF Application" to casey.burns@ut.usda.gov by 11:59pm (Mountain time) on Sunday, Dec. 1.