

Pennsylvania Private Lands Forester
NRCS's Working Lands for Wildlife Program

Position Summary:

Title: Working Lands for Wildlife-Private Lands Forester

Location: Based in central Pennsylvania

Supervisor: Indiana University of Pennsylvania Research Institute

Application Deadline: Until suitable candidate is found

Term of Position: 2 years with possibility for extension



Background:

Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Research Institute, in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), is looking for a motivated individual to work effectively with private forest landowners and local conservation partners in the Appalachian Mountain region of Pennsylvania. The selected individual will conduct landowner outreach, collect and review silvics data, draft forest management plans, and prepare stands for project implementation for landowners interested in being part of NRCS's Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) partnership to assist in the recovery of the Golden-winged Warbler (GWWA), while also promoting forest health and timber production objectives.

Primary duties:

Work with NRCS field offices, IUP-RI staff, as well as local partners such as PA DCNR, PA Game Commission, USFWS, NGOs (American Bird Conservancy, Ruffed Grouse Society, etc.), consulting foresters, and others to:

- Promote forest management that benefits healthy forests and imperiled wildlife to private landowners, consulting foresters and loggers; including helping organize and conduct outreach and training workshops.
- Identify and directly contact private landowners with NRCS-based forest stewardship opportunities intended to benefit forest health and wildlife.
- Conduct site visits to provide technical assistance to interested landowners and advance forest management plan development.
- Work with NRCS field offices and other forestry resource professionals to draft and implement management plans according to NRCS practice standards and focal species' best management practices.
- Assist with the implementation of conservation plans on private lands using established forest management guidelines known to improve forest health, promote desired regeneration, and benefit Golden-winged Warblers and associated wildlife.
- Assist with monitoring and tracking project activities using an electronic database and GIS to ensure proper reporting for assessing success, and potentially assist with focal species monitoring.

Position Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Forestry is required. A strong understanding of forest stand improvement practices and wildlife conservation in eastern deciduous forests is a must.
- Experience working with private landowners as well as public agencies (NRCS, USFWS, state forestry and wildlife agencies, etc.) strongly desired.
- Professional skills, knowledge and experience to assess, devise, and apply strategies for forest management to meet desired forestry and wildlife habitat objectives. Experience developing and implementing site-specific forest management plans/practices, and the ability to utilize forest inventory tools/inventory protocol needed.
- Willing and able to travel throughout Pennsylvania with occasional overnight travel. IUP RI provides a vehicle and fuel card for site visits, or if desired, use of personal vehicle with mileage reimbursement. Applicant must have a valid driver's license.
- Knowledge of NRCS landowner cost-share programs such as EQIP desired.
- Proven ability to manage multiple projects, produce effective results and meet deadlines.
- Proven ability to be self-motivated, responsible, and solve problems. Applicant must be able to develop and manage their own daily work schedule to achieve results and work independently
- Ability to use GIS, Google Maps, etc. to identify and delineate project boundaries; and Microsoft Excel and Google Drive to manage project information.
- Willing and able to work in physically challenging environment under adverse conditions. IUP-RI provides a GPS unit, cruising vest, prism, flagging, forestry paint, etc. Potential projects are in heavily forest landscapes and often in rugged terrain, so comfort, ability and desire to navigate environments is required.

Though this position is largely field or home office based, candidates should plan to be located within central Pennsylvania. The forester will be an IUP-RI employee and represents IUP-RI in its work. The forester will be supervised by the IUP-RI project manager.

Salary:

The salary for this position is \$50,000-52,000/yr + benefits.

To Apply:

Please send a single PDF document containing 1) cover letter, 2) resume or CV, and 3) names and contact information for 3 references to Kristin Fuoco – WLFW Golden-winged Warbler Coordinator at kristin.fuoco@usda.gov. If you have any questions or require further information, please contact Kristin by email or phone at (540) 319-6465.

* The IUP Research Institute is an equal opportunity employer.