

Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist II

Sumter, South Carolina

Location: USDA-NRCS office in Sumter, SC.

Application Deadline: Open until filled; resumes will be reviewed continuously.

Anticipated Start Date: Summer 2025

Overview: In partnership with the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), this Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist will coordinate and implement wildlife habitat-related conservation programs and provide technical assistance within a multi-county area. The position will be headquartered in a USDA Service Center in Sumter, South Carolina and provide service to multiple counties across the state. This individual will work in joint capacity with partner agencies (including SCDNR) to promote, coordinate and implement conservation provisions of the Federal Farm Bill on private lands, with primary focus on the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) Bobwhite Program. CRP program planning will focus on improving upland habitat and associated species. Conservation delivery may also involve other relevant Farm Bill programs as well as state and local habitat programs and initiatives. General duties will include all aspects of wildlife habitat planning, contract coordination, conservation plan writing, site assessment/eligibility determination, practice certification, program promotion/outreach, landowner technical assistance, and quarterly reporting. The incumbent will be an employee of Pheasants Forever, Inc. and Quail Forever and receive supervision from Pheasants Forever with daily guidance provided by the local Service Center staff.

Job Duties:

- Provide technical assistance (wildlife habitat focus) and guidance to private landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations and other groups for USDA NRCS conservation programs. Training provided jointly by NRCS, and QF.
- Complete conservation plans, job sheets, wildlife habitat evaluation guides (WHEG) and other required documentation for the conservation programs requiring biological expertise in cooperation with the listed partners.
- Conduct CRP site visits and status reviews.
- Communicate program requirements, complete site visits to determine eligibility, and develop contract documents for applicants and participants of USDA-NRCS conservation programs and other local and state programs.
- Review plans and specifications for feasibility for implementation under Farm Bill program contract rules, etc.
- Accelerate conservation program enrollment by conducting outreach such as workshops, field days, demonstration events, and habitat tours.
- Work with Clemson Extension partners to establish CRP demonstration sites on Research and Education Center properties.
- Provide on-site landowner technical assistance for conservation practice implementation.
- Review/certify federal cost-share practices for compliance.
- Complete conservation plans as they relate to NRCS cost share programs, specifically CRP.
- Work with local QF chapters to assist with habitat program education and outreach and provide technical assistance for habitat projects.

Desired Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agencies.
- Ability to work independently and with diverse clientele. Must be a motivated self-starter with strong interpersonal skills.
- Knowledge of, and/or practical experience with silviculture and prescribed fire as it relates to timber management and production in the Southeastern US.
- Knowledge of wildlife ecology, forest 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.
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong organizational skills, with demonstrated ability to manage demanding workloads.
- Proficiency with ArcGIS, GPS, *Microsoft Office Suite (Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Outlook, etc.)*
- Valid driver's license required; use of personal vehicle required (mileage reimbursement provided).
- Must be able to obtain USDA Federal Security Clearance.

Education and Experience Preferred: Any combination of training and/or experience that will enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills and abilities. A Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management, Forestry, or closely related natural resources field is required. Proven experience working with USDA Farm Bill programs is preferred. At least 2 years of professional experience are preferred for a Farm Bill Biologist II. The ideal candidate will exhibit a balance of technical knowledge and interpersonal skills required to implement voluntary conservation programs on private lands. A successful applicant must enjoy working with private landowners to achieve their objectives. Demonstrated interest, training, and experience in both forestry and wildlife is also ideal.

Salary Range: \$40,000-44,000 (Commensurate with Experience and Qualifications) + see benefit summary on our website at www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs

To Apply: Visit our website at: www.pheasantsforever.org/jobs . ONLY ONLINE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED. Please include your cover letter, resume and 3 references on our Recruitment website.

Contact: For additional questions please contact Jacob McClain, SC State Coordinator, at JMcClain@quailforever.org.

Pheasants Forever, Inc and Quail Forever is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, status as a protected veteran, status as a qualified individual with disability, or any other category that may be protected by law.