

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

Position Summary:

Title: Working Lands for Wildlife-Private Lands Forester

Location: Lexington, VA (with work across western VA)

Supervisors: Indiana University of Pennsylvania – Research Institute

Application Deadline: Jan 15 or until suitable candidate is found

Term of Position: 4 years; January 2025 to December 31, 2028

Background and Primary Duties:

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 Virginia. The selected individual will conduct landowner outreach, collect and review silvics data, draft forest management plans, and prepare stands for implementation for private landowners interested in being part of NRCS's Working Lands for Wildlife (WLFW) partnership.

Primary duties will be as follows.

Work with NRCS field offices, IUP-RI staff, as well as local partners such as, VA Dept. of Forestry, VA Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, USFWS, NGOs (American Bird Conservancy and Ruffed Grouse Society), consulting foresters, and others to:

- Promote forest management that benefits healthy forests and imperiled wildlife (i.e., Golden-Winged Warbler) to private landowners and consulting foresters; including the potential to help organize and conduct outreach and training workshops.
- Identify and directly outreach to 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, the VA WLFW Coordinator, and other forester resource professionals with the development of site-specific forest management plans according to NRCS practice standards and focal species' best management practices. Successful candidate will provide evidence of being an effective writer.
- 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.

Position Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree or higher in Forestry is required. A strong understanding of forest stand improvement practices and wildlife conservation in deciduous forests of western Virginia

- Professional knowledge and skills to assess, devise, and apply strategies for forest management as 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 western Virginia with occasional overnight travel. Applicant should be prepared to spend as much as 10% of their time away from home. IUP-RI covers travel expenses.
- Experience working with private landowners as well as public agencies (NRCS, USFWS, state forestry and wildlife, etc.), desired
- Knowledge of NRCS landowner cost-share programs such as EQIP, desired.
- Self-motivated, responsible and organized. Applicant must be able to develop and manage their daily work schedule to achieve results.
- Ability to use GIS, Google Maps, etc. to identify and delineate project boundaries; and Microsoft Excel and Database to manage information.
- The position requires excellent networking and communication skills (presentation, interpersonal, reading, and writing); project management experience, and organizing and leadership skills. Applicant should be a team player, but also work well independently.
- Willing and able to work in physically challenging environment under adverse conditions. IUP-RI provides a GPS, cruising vest, prism, flagging, forestry paint, etc.
- Forester may be required to participate in specific NRCS training programs in order to use NRCS facilities, computers, and equipment. Applicant must have a valid driver's license.

The VA Forester will be based out of a home office with access to the NRCS field office in Lexington, VA. 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 in partnership with VA NRCS staff.

Salary: \$53,000/yr + benefits

To Apply: Please send a single pdf document containing a) cover letter, b) resume; and c) names and contact information for 2 references to Ron Rohrbaugh; Indiana University of Pennsylvania-Research Institute; ronrohr@iup.edu

* The IUP Research Institute is an equal opportunity employer