



**Forest Wildlife Specialist – Forester
Vermont – Green Mountain National Forest**

Location: Rutland or Manchester, Vermont

Employer: Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society

Region: Northeast U.S.

Starting Date: January 31, 2024

Term of Position: January 2024 to January 2027, with a possibility of position extension.

Background and Primary Duties:

The Ruffed Grouse Society & American Woodcock Society (RGS & AWS) is a national, nonprofit organization with a 60-year record of forest wildlife conservation. RGS & AWS, in partnership with the Green Mountain National Forest (GMNF) is hiring a public lands forester to work effectively with the GMNF team across their Manchester and Rochester/ Middlebury Districts. The selected individual will coordinate the implementation of silvicultural and vegetative management work on National Forest lands to achieve objectives from the Green Mountain National Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan (the Forest Plan)

Qualifications:

- A bachelor's degree in forestry or closely related field, with 3+ years of experience or a master's degree in forestry.
- In-depth understanding of forest management including operations, silvicultural systems, forest product markets, and environmental regulation. Ability to assess wildlife habitat and make connections between forest management and wildlife needs.
- Technical expertise in field forestry, including management plan preparation, forest inventory, timber marking, boundary layout, and GPS data collection. Experience in prescribed fire and burn plan preparation is a plus.
- Excellent spoken and written communication skills, networking skills, well organized, and ability to engage with a diversity of stakeholders and conservation partners. Experience managing complex projects under deadlines.
- Knowledge of USDA Forest Service processes, regulations, policies, and directives (e.g., NFMA and NEPA). Previous experience working with the US Forest Service, or another federal land management agency is preferred.
- Previous experience working with Federal or State agencies is desired.
- Ability to use Excel, ArcGIS, Google Maps, and other computer mapping systems to identify and delineate project boundaries.



- Willingness and ability to travel frequently throughout central and southern Vermont and perform arduous field work on steep terrain.
- Proven ability to manage multiple projects, produce effective results and meet deadlines. Applicant must be self-motivated, responsible and can solve problems.
- The position will be required to participate in specific training programs to use partner facilities and equipment. Applicant must have a valid driver's license.

Position Summary:

The Forest Wildlife Specialist's main duties will include working with GMNF staff, RGS & AWS- staff, and National Forest staff, as well as local partners such as Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, conservation nonprofits, consulting foresters, and timber purchasers to:

- Assist with vegetation management project planning efforts by leading stand reconnaissance, common stand exams, GIS mapping, data analyses, and silvicultural prescription writing to feed to the Forest's silviculturists and interdisciplinary planning team.
- Develop and implement Stewardship Agreements with the Forest within GMNF and other high-priority areas with active NEPA documentation.
- Mark and cruise timber for and prepares general logging plans. In consideration of resource concerns and other limitations, determines sale boundaries, proper location of logging roads, acceptable marking and cutting methods, stumpage values, and contract requirements.
- Lead the administration of noncommercial treatments and commercial timber harvests to achieve desired forest conditions, including preparing contracts and bid materials, selecting contractors, forest road maintenance, and performing site inspections and evaluations.
- Inspect timber sales for compliance with contract clauses and adherence to best management practices for soil and water conservation (Best Management Practices).
- Assist with monitoring efforts, including the potential to assist with wildlife monitoring (e.g., ruffed grouse drummer surveys).
- Promote active forest management to the public, including the potential to organize and conduct outreach and training workshops.
- Lead volunteer efforts with RGS & AWS members and the public, including monitoring efforts, information or interpretive programs, and habitat workdays.
- Communicate the importance of active forest management to RGS & AWS members and the public during field trips, presentations, blog posts, and local media pitches.
- Maintain a database to track performance, achievements, and outcomes.
- Write and submit regular summaries, and interim and annual reports to RGS & AWS and partners.

The Forest Wildlife Specialist will report to the GMNF Forestry Program Manager for daily and weekly assignments and to the RGS & AWS Northeast Forest Conservation Director for overall supervision. A portion of their timing working from a home office might be possible depending on the candidate.



The position is an RGS & AWS employee and represents RGS & AWS in their work. There will be a 6-month probationary period for the purposes of determining the suitability of the employee to their new position.

Compensation:

The salary for the position is \$55,000.00, plus benefits, health insurance, and retirement options. A work vehicle will be available for the position, with the possibility of mileage reimbursement or a vehicle stipend as needed. A purchasing card for business and travel expenses, computer, printer, cell phone, office supplies will be provided.

Application Instructions:

Please send a cover letter and resume to Todd Waldron (RGS & AWS) at toddw@ruffedgrousesociety.org by **11:59pm on December 15, 2023**. If you have any questions, please contact Todd at 518-926-8734.