

Position Announcement

- Position:** Range Management – Wildlife Biology Prescribed Fire Specialist
Kansas Forest Service
Department of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources
Kansas State University
- Description:** Full-time, term appointment, position with the Kansas Forest Service, Kansas State University subject to availability of grant funds. Under the programmatic supervision of the Fire Prevention Forester, Kansas Forest Service the incumbent will be responsible for developing prescribed burn plans for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) lands and other range lands where applicable in support of the State's interest in protecting, enhancing and expanding Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat.
- Location:** The position is to be located at the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Office, Scott City, Kansas or a mutually agreeable nearby city.
- Responsibilities:** The incumbent will be responsible for:
- Developing a working relationship with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service District Conservationists, County/Multi-County Conservation Districts, and Rural Fire Districts inside the current range of the Lesser Prairie Chicken in Western Kansas.
 - Identifying and subsequently collaborating with Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWP&T) and Nature Conservancy biologists in the current Lesser Prairie Chicken range with habitat enhancement through prescribed fire planning and implementation.
 - Identifying and assessing both current and potential Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat for the purpose of targeting strategic prescribed burn planning assistance for habitat restoration and conservation.
 - Identifying and contacting key individuals within counties of current and potential Lesser Prairie Chicken range who own/manage Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat for possible planning and prescribed burning assistance.
 - Identifying and establishing a working relationship with organized grazing groups for the purpose of informing them of the role of prescribed burning as a Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat management tool and making them aware of available prescribed burn planning and financial assistance in support of the Lesser Prairie Chicken.
 - Assisting Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) subscribers meet management and maintenance requirements through prescribed fire and other appropriate means.

- Organizing and hosting tours throughout the Lesser Prairie Chicken's current range to promote habitat improvement through prescribed burning and other planning opportunities.
- Identifying and completing planning opportunities prior to Lesser Prairie Chicken Wildlife Habitat Improvement Program (WHIP) and Environmental Quality Improvement Program (EQIP) signup periods for the purpose of having a waiting list of customers for cost-share funding opportunities provided by those programs.
- Working with the Kansas Grazing Lands Coalition and other grazing groups to organize and assist in Lesser Prairie Chicken workshops and training opportunities for ranchers and landowners.
- Working with KDWP&T to identify current Lesser Prairie Chicken breeding grounds (leks) and potential breeding sites (leks) for the purpose of strategic planning efforts.
- Identifying other ecological features that coexist with Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat and are in need of conservation.
- Providing activity reports quarterly, and a final report within 90 days of the close of the project.

**Minimum
Qualifications:**

Degree in Rangeland Management or Wildlife Biology (BS or MS) with course work or experience in prescribed range/grassland fire planning and implementation to benefit wildlife preferred. Training, education and experience in closely related natural resource disciplines such as Forestry or Agronomy will be considered. Incumbent must have the ability to conduct a full service Range Management / Wildlife Biology program under limited supervision. Incumbent must have the ability to work effectively with others, both individually and in a team setting; organize work priorities and carry them out; and communicate effectively both orally and in writing. Incumbent must be able to perform physical work outdoors in a variety of weather conditions. Incumbent must have or the ability to obtain a valid Kansas driver's license upon employment.

Salary:

Commensurate with training and experience with a minimum of \$35,000 per annum.

How to Apply: Qualified applicants must submit the following: (1) letter of application; (2) current resume; (3) academic transcripts; and (4) name, address and phone number of three professional references to:

**Cathy Sandoval
Office Manager
Kansas Forest Service
2610 Claflin Road
Manhattan, KS 66502-2798
(785) 532-3300
cathy@ksu.edu
<http://www.kansasforests.org>**

Screening of Applications: **Screening of Applications will begin on October 24, 2011 and continue until position is filled.**

Benefits: This is an unclassified position of Kansas State University. The Kansas State University benefit package includes a retirement plan, group health and life insurance plans, worker's compensation, vacation, sick leave and other benefits.

Equal Employment Opportunity: Kansas State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity employer. Kansas State University encourages diversity among its employees. Kansas State University is committed to a policy of non-discrimination on the basis of color, race, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, religion, age, or other non-merit reasons. Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas 66506. A background check is required.

The Kansas Forest Service is organized under the Kansas Board of Regents at Kansas State University and has been part of the University System since 1909. The agency is administered by the State Forester who reports to the Department Head of Horticulture, Forestry and Recreation Resources within the College of Agriculture at Manhattan.

The Kansas Forest Service mission is "Care of Natural Resources and Forestry Service to People and Places." The agency achieves its mission by administering forestry programs statewide. Technical assistance relating to the stewardship of private forest lands, urban and community forests, conservation tree planting, forest health and wildland fire protection is provided.