

## **Position Description**

**for**

### **Range Management – Wildlife Biology Prescribed Fire Specialist**

**Kansas Forest Service, Kansas State University**

#### **PRINCIPLE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF POSITION:**

This position, working in tandem with USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, will assist landowners and land managers in western Kansas prepare prescribed burn plans for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracted lands and other lands as applicable for the benefit of the Lesser Prairie Chicken. The area of responsibility is the Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat range in the Kansas Forest Service's Northwest and Southwest Districts. This is a shared position with the Natural Resources Conservation Service. This position will work with landowners, NRCS personnel, Kansas Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Wildlife Biologists, Rural Fire Districts and other stakeholders to utilize prescribed fire in fulfillment of Conservation Reserve Program management and maintenance contractual obligations to enhance wildlife habitat with an emphasis on the Lesser Prairie Chicken.

The Incumbent will prepare prescribed burn plans in cooperation with NRCS, landowners and other stakeholders to safely and effectively meet landowner interest and CRP contract goals and objective. Major activities will include writing prescribed burn plans, promoting prescribed fire, and establishing conservation and woody plant abatement practices.

The Incumbent will also lead a program to promote safe burning practices to landowners and fire departments. Moreover, the Incumbent will work to develop local community support for, and awareness of, lesser prairie chicken habitat needs and associated conservation efforts, and will negotiate complex and innovative solutions with government agencies and landowners to conserve key habitats.

#### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

- Education: BS or MS Degree(s) in Range Management or Wildlife Biology preferred. Equivalent degree(s) in closely related field such as Agronomy or Forestry will be considered.
- Other Valuable Qualifications: Documented and/or certified prescribed fire planning and implementation experience. Familiarity with GIS and ArcView computer technology. Experience using common software applications such as Word, Excel, Web browsers and basic internet skills.

#### **KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:**

- Ability to communicate effectively with clients and stakeholders.

- Knowledge of current trends and practices in conservation, land management, and natural resource preservation.
- Experience in fire-adapted ecosystems.
- Ability to explain conservation practices to technical and non-technical audiences.
- Ability and willingness to apply science to decision-making and to guide technical activities.
- Knowledge of or willingness to learn new prescribed fire techniques and equipment and willingness to maintain and enhance fire certification credentials as allowed.
- Maintain a valid Kansas Driver's license.

**PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- Capable of considerable physical exertion including the ability to walk unassisted long distances over uneven ground.
- Capable and willing to work outdoors for extended periods (up to 8 hours).
- Capable and willing to periodically work in and around prescribed fires and wildfires and their associated hazards.
- Capable and willing to work outdoors in variable climatic conditions --- rain, snow, hot and cold temperatures.

**PERFORMANCE STANDARDS:**

- Plan, develop and conduct an assigned range management – wildlife biology program to meet the needs of the resource and clientele in a positive and professional manner.
- Effectively utilize the mass media and meetings and workshops to educate other natural resource professionals and the public on range management – wildlife biology programs and issues.
- Provide strong leadership in carrying out range management – wildlife biology programs and assignments.
- Communicate effectively (both orally and in writing) and develop good working relationships within KFS and between other federal, state and local agencies, organizations, interest groups and clientele.
- Represent KFS in a very professional manner.
- Actively participate on KFS committees and staff meetings.
- Continually update expertise and professional competence as a subject matter specialist.

**SALARY:**

- Minimum base salary - \$35,000.

**APPLICATION PROCESS:**

- Send Cover Letter, resume, and three references to:

Cathy Sandoval, Office Manager  
Kansas Forest Service, Kansas State University  
2610 Claflin Road  
Manhattan, KS 66502-2798

- Please call (785) 532-3300 or email [cathy@ksu.edu](mailto:cathy@ksu.edu).



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A Background Check is Required**