

# Wildlife Biologist

## JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Tuscola Conservation District is accepting applications for a Farm Bill Biologist position to provide technical assistance to agriculture producers and landowners in Arenac, Bay, Huron and Tuscola Counties.

The Farm Bill Biologist position provides program outreach, technical assistance and landowner recruitment as part of the Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative. Program goals include increasing quality wildlife habitat, as well as soil and water protection, across the landscape by assisting landowners enroll in a wide variety of USDA Farm Bill programs, Michigan DNR habitat financial programs, Pheasants Forever and Quality Deer Management Association cost share programs. This position will be an employee of, and supervised by, the Tuscola Conservation District with interaction and leadership provided by USDA NRCS, MDNR, MDARD and local partners. This is a grant funded position provided to the Tuscola Conservation District from the Michigan Departments of Natural Resources and Agriculture and Rural Development.

### Duties

- Provide technical assistance and guidance to private landowners, government agencies, non-government organizations, and others. (training provided by the USDA, MDNR, and other local and partners).
- Coordinate public meetings to promote various conservation programs and develop a technical advisory committee to provide local input.
- Community outreach to existing conservation/hunt clubs by offering presentations about conservation district services and programs.
- Coordinate the application and implementation of habitat improvements within partner conservation programs in cooperation with the NRCS District Conservationist, State of Michigan and other partners.
- Aid in the completion of applications, contracts, and other required documentation for USDA conservation program participation (i.e. CRP, WRE, EQIP, GRP, etc.).
- Communicate program requirements, complete site visits to determine eligibility, and develop plans and contracts for applicants enrolling in USDA conservation programs or other state and local conservation programs.
- Develop promotional materials, identify boundaries and landowners, and host meetings to establish landowner cooperatives to promote and expand the Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative.
- Other conservation duties related to this positions success or as assigned by the District Administrator and/or Board of Directors.

### **Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities**

- Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with landowners and partner agencies.
- Ability to work independently with diverse clientele.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Knowledge of wildlife ecology, wetland and grassland management, including the ability to utilize various habitat management tools in the development of management plans. (must possess knowledge of pheasant habitat, including establishment and management)
- Knowledge of conservation and wildlife programs provided by USDA, MDNR and other partners including Pheasants Forever and other non-profit organizations. Knowledge of how these programs are implemented in an agricultural landscape is desired.
- Must have experience in Microsoft Office and other computer programs. GIS experience preferred.
- Valid driver's license required; work vehicle provided, mileage reimbursement of approved personal vehicle usage.
- Able to obtain USDA Federal Security Clearance.
- Flexible schedule as night and weekend hours will occur on an irregular basis to attend banquets, outdoor shows, meetings, etc.

### **Training and Experience Guideline**

A bachelor's degree; natural resources management, fisheries and wildlife, biology, or related field is preferred. A combination of education, training and experience that enable the applicant to possess the required knowledge, skills, and abilities will be considered.

### **Salary, Benefits, Work Hours, Location**

This is a grant funded position with salary based on experience. Typical work hours are 8am – 4:30pm; Monday – Friday, with occasional night and weekend work required. The position will be located in the Tuscola County USDA Service Center, housed within the Conservation District/ NRCS office.

### **To Apply**

Please submit cover letter, resume with references and copy of college transcripts to Mike Boike, District Administrator by email to [mike.boike@mi.nacdnet.net](mailto:mike.boike@mi.nacdnet.net) or via mail at 1075 Cleaver Rd. Caro, MI 48723 by the close of business on Feb. 28, 2018. Please contact Mike Boike with any questions related to the position (e-mail preferred) or by calling 989-673-8174 x 3.