

Job description

Position: Land Stewardship Fellow
Agency: Freshwater Land Trust
Location: Birmingham, AL
Job Category: Temporary/Seasonal Position- 12 months
Salary: \$1,600/month stipend, 32 hours/week
Start Date: 08/01/2019
Last date to Apply: 06/01/2019



Description:

Freshwater Land Trust (FLT) conserves, connects, and cares for land and water in Central Alabama, creating dynamic green spaces for future generations. FLT is a unique organization tasked with the management of nearly 5000 acres of fee-owned property and monitoring an additional 3000 acres in conservation easements. Furthermore, FLT works with landowners as well as nonprofit, corporate, and government organizations on regional conservation projects including habitat restoration, endangered species habitat enhancement and maintenance, long-term stewardship of mitigation banks, and conservation related outreach and education.

Freshwater Land Trust is looking for a passionate recent graduate to fill a one year fellowship position that begins on August 1, 2019 and runs through July 31, 2020. This fellowship is an opportunity for recent graduates from a 4 year university or graduate program with a degree in Biology, Ecology and Evolution, Natural Resource Management, or related field to get hands-on experience working with a nonprofit conservation organization. Being a fellow at such a unique organization is an applied academic endeavor, with the intent to gain the knowledge and experience desired to become gainfully employed by an organization within a related field. This position offers an opportunity to learn from and work with an experienced land manager and restoration ecologist and network with private, corporate, nonprofit, academic, and government institutions. Anyone who is passionate about conservation and wants to gain experience in land stewardship, wildlife and forest management, endangered species habitat enhancement and maintenance, and conservation outreach is encouraged to apply.

Duties:

The primary responsibilities include the following:

- Monitor land and water to document current habitat conditions and stewardship needs
- Identify and map stewardship concerns on the land using GPS applications and ArcGIS (invasive species, unapproved trails, etc.)
- Accomplish a variety of stewardship actions including but not limited to invasive plant removal, restoration project maintenance, restoration tree planting, prescribed burns, and tool maintenance
- Coordinate special plant and animal inventory/monitoring projects
- Document monitoring visits and actions accomplished in report format
- Maintain long-term property records
- Conduct stream morphology and condition assessments (canoe or kayak provided)
- Collect ecologically relevant data to improve management strategies
- Assist with the monitoring, maintenance, and restoration of endangered species habitat
- Map and spatial analysis using ArcGIS
- Use data management programs to collect spatial data in the field
- Serve as a conservation liaison with community partners
- Communicate with landowners, academic institutions, and the general public about conservation and wildlife habitat needs

- Develop and oversee volunteer events
- Represent the organization at conferences, academic institutions, and community events

Qualifications:

Required:

- Recent graduate of a bachelors or masters program in Biology, Ecology and Evolution, Natural Resource Management, or related field
- Ability to work independently in the field while demonstrating a strong work ethic and safety common sense
- Ability to work as part of a team with staff and/or community volunteers in the field
- Excellent communication skills
- Excellent attention to detail
- Willingness to learn new skills
- Basic understanding of ecosystem function, wildlife habitat, and aquatic systems
- Ability to traverse rugged terrain during variable weather conditions, often carrying equipment

Preferred:

- Experience with land management methods including herbicide application, planting, prescribed burning, etc.
- Experience working in or near sensitive critical habitat
- Ability to identify herbaceous and woody vegetation in the central Alabama region
- Ability to identify invasive plant species common to central Alabama
- Ability to complete basic mapping and spatial analysis using ArcGIS
- Experience using GPS applications such as Landscape and AVENZA Maps

Contact:

To apply, please send a cover letter, resume or CV, and three references to Jeffrey Drummond at jeffrey.drummond@freshwaterlandtrust.org