

Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies Vacancy Announcement

Position Title: National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan Coordinator

Location: Brookings, SD

Salary: Commensurate with experience, up to \$70,000/year plus benefits

Application Deadline: Close of Business on 30 November 2015

Anticipated Start Date: TBD

Position Description: The incumbent will be the executive officer, under the auspices of Midwest Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA), charged with implementing the National Wild Pheasant Conservation Plan (NWPCP), and providing guidance to the Directors of NWPCP member and affiliate states on plan implementation and progress. The NWPCP is a plan directed at restoring wild ring-necked pheasant populations through large-scale habitat conservation across the entire range of the species. The NWPCP coordinator will provide consultation to and facilitate communication among a variety of federal, state, and private conservation organizations on policies, programs, research, projects and practices related to agriculture and habitat conservation for wild ring-necked pheasant and other grassland-forb wildlife species. This position operates under the general supervision of the MAFWA Directors, and the direct supervision of the National Pheasant Management Board (NPMB, comprised of state level administrators and key partners to provide oversight and guidance). The coordinator will exercise a great deal of independence in developing program priorities and actions necessary for implementation of the NWPCP.

Essential Job Duties: Develop and coordinate a National Pheasant Management Board comprised of state-level administrators and key partners to provide oversight and guidance to plan implementation and development. Support and coordinate with the National Wild Pheasant Technical Committee (NWPTC) representing the needs and objectives of all states and partners. Coordinate with, and provide consultation to state wildlife agency directors and technical staff, as well as other conservation organization leaders to ensure that wild pheasant needs and objectives are fully considered in other grassland conservation planning activities such as NABCI Bird Conservation Regions, NAWMP Joint Ventures, Northern Bobwhite Conservation Initiative, and the North American Prairie Grouse Partnership.

Represent, promote and act on behalf of the NWPCP and MAFWA at national, regional and state meetings, including but not limited to: MAFWA Director's annual conference, AWFA annual conference, North American Wildlife Conference, Partner's In Flight annual meeting, and Pheasant Forever National Convention.

Advise NWPCP member and affiliate states on methodologies to develop public/private multi-organizational task forces that will facilitate achievement of NWPCP goals at the state level. Research opportunities and develop grant proposals for large-scale wild pheasant and grassland-forb wildlife habitat projects. Facilitate and coordinate collaborative research and initiatives among state agencies, as well as academic institutions and NGOs, as appropriate.

Research, track and disseminate up-to-date information regarding relevant federal and state habitat conservation programs and policies to state, federal and non-government wild pheasant advocates. Provide liaison to lawmakers, congressional staff and agency leaders concerning legislation and policy. Coordinate NWPCP agriculture policy efforts with Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' Agriculture Policy staff. Negotiate authorization of new programs and changes to existing programs that will provide positive habitat benefits for wild pheasants and grassland birds, particularly in the agricultural policy arena.

Submit written quarterly and annual activity reports to representatives of the NWPTC and of the NPMB. Evaluate program milestones and recommend changes to initiative direction to the state agency directors as needed. Administer a budget that accounts for all expenditures and submit periodic budget reports.

Required Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities: Current knowledge of pheasant ecology and management; and an understanding of the relevant national agriculture and conservation programs and policies. Ability to communicate and coordinate with a diverse array of federal, state, non-governmental, and constituency groups regarding policy, research, habitat conservation, and related issues, programs, and practices.

Minimum Qualifications: Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's of Science degree in wildlife ecology or closely related field, and 5 years relevant experience, post-graduation. A graduate degree in a related field is preferred and can be substituted for experience.

To Apply: Send electronic applications to Dr. Jeffrey Lusk, Nebraska Game & Parks Commission, jeff.lusk@nebraska.gov. Applications should consist of a single PDF file containing applicant's resume or CV, and a cover letter detailing qualifications and experience as they relate to the Essential Job Duties. Applications must be received on or before COB of the application deadline to guarantee consideration. Potential applicants are encouraged to read the NWPCP, which is available at: http://www.mafwa.org/documents/MPSG_NWPCP_Final_2013.pdf