



Coordinating Wildlife Biologist Verdigris-Bazile Biologically Unique Landscape

This position is held by Northern Prairies Land Trust in conjunction with the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Salary: Starting at \$28.12/hr plus retirement benefits

Application Deadline: October 25, 2024

Earliest Start Date: approximately December 1, 2024; this is a grant funded position that has secure funding for 2 years with strong potential for extension

Employer: This position is with Northern Prairies Land Trust (www.northernprairies.org) and jointly supervised by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (www.outdoornebraska.org) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (www.nrcs.usda.gov).

Description:

This position will be a full-time (40 hrs/wk) employee of Northern Prairies Land Trust (NPLT) under joint supervision of the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (NGPC). The position will implement actions identified in the Nebraska Natural Legacy Project (NNLP) and provide support to Farm Bill programs with a strong emphasis on the Great Plains Grassland Initiative. The primary focus area will be on private lands in the Verdigris-Bazile Biologically Unique Landscape in parts of Knox, Holt, Antelope and Boyd counties in northeast Nebraska. This position will be housed in a NRCS office within the focus area.

The position requires an individual who is self motivated and can work with limited supervision. The core element of the position is designing and implementing ecologically and economically sustainable conservation projects with landowners for the benefit of rare species and declining habitat. This grant funded position, and NPLT has a proven record for fundraising and extending similar positions. Salary begins at \$4,874/month plus retirement benefits, annual and sick leave, and paid holidays. The position does not include employer sponsored health insurance.

Northern Prairies Land Trust is a private non-profit general service land trust operating in Nebraska and South Dakota. The mission of the trust is to assist conservation-minded private landowners who are interested in better managing and protecting their property for future generations.

Responsibilities:

- A) Design, coordinate and monitor enhancement and restoration projects on prairies, eastern deciduous woodlands, wetlands, and other habitats associated with at-risk

species. Projects will include the planning and implementation of prescribed burns, burn-driven grazing management systems, prairie/woodland restoration, tree and shrub clearing, and invasive plant control. An emphasis will be made to coordinate such projects in a manner that has larger landscape level impact.

- B) Work closely with private landowners and other stakeholders to promote safe prescribed fire techniques. Assist with local Prescribed Burn Associations.
- C) Monitor and inventory at-risk wildlife and plant species and aid cooperating landowners in monitoring project success.
- D) Provide support for outreach, education, and research efforts.
- E) Work closely with USDA and NGPC to ensure record keeping, permitting, and grant objective compliance.
- F) Attend local and regional meetings associated with the NRCS, NGPC, NPLT, and the NNLP.

Required Knowledge, Abilities, and Skills:

- A) Sound working knowledge of grassland and woodland ecology and species identification in the Midwest.
- B) Sound working knowledge of prescribed fire and grazing as management tools.
- C) Ability to communicate clearly and effectively with rural landowners and other conservation partners through conversation, writing, and formal presentations.
- D) Sound working knowledge of private lands conservation programs, provisions of the Endangered Species Act, and Nebraska's State Wildlife Action Plan.
- E) Ability to work as part of a team, and independently without immediate supervision.
- F) Working knowledge of GIS tools and Microsoft Office software.

Required Education and Experience:

A bachelor's degree in wildlife biology, plant ecology, range management, or closely related natural resources field is required (M.S. preferred). Prior experience with private lands conservation or land management is required. Training and experience with prescribed fire planning and implementation, GIS software, and grant writing is preferred. The successful applicant will also need to go through a USDA security clearance.

To Apply:

Email a resume and cover letter to Cassidy Wessel (cassidy.wessel@nebraska.gov), Kent Pfeiffer (kent.pfeiffer@nebraska.gov), and Rebekah Poppe (Rebekah.poppe@usda.gov). Position is open until filled.

More Information:

Nebraska Natural Legacy Project: <https://outdoornebraska.gov/conservation/conservation-efforts/natural-legacy-project/>

Great Plains Grassland Initiative: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/nebraska/nebraska-great-plains-grassland-initiative>

