

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Title:	PRIVATE LANDS WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST (BIOLOGIST I)
FLSA Status:	FULL TIME / EXEMPT / SALARIED
Reports to:	Stewardship Director
Direct Reports:	None
Location:	Clayton, NM
Salary:	\$42,000 annually
Benefits:	Bird Conservancy offers generous paid time off (holidays, annual leave, and sick leave), a Simple IRA match, and health, dental, and vision insurance.
Start Date	October-November, 2018

About the Organization:

Bird Conservancy of the Rockies conserves birds and their habitats through an integrated approach of science, education and stewardship. Our work extends from the Rockies to the Great Plains, Mexico and beyond. We advance our mission through sound science, achieved through empowering people, realized through stewardship and sustained through cross-border collaborations. We monitor and identify population trends, research habitat needs, engage landowners and managers in wildlife and habitat stewardship, and inspire audiences of all ages to be better stewards of the land. Together, we are improving native bird populations, the land, and the lives of people. Learn more about our work and programs at our website: www.birdconservancy.org

About the position:

Position Overview

The Private Lands Wildlife Biologist (PLWB) program is a partnership among the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), and Bird Conservancy of the Rockies (Bird Conservancy) focused on delivering wildlife conservation programs on private lands in northeastern New Mexico. The program provides technical resources to landowners and other land managers to more fully incorporate wildlife conservation on their private lands. By integrating Bird Conservancy technical resources with NRCS, NMDGF funding mechanisms and technical capacities, the PLWB partnership supports a collaborative and human-focused approach to private lands conservation. Specifically, the PLWB will implement this work in grassland communities and focus on providing technical assistance to agricultural producers that complements agricultural production and protects, enhances, and restores grassland bird habitat. Currently, the Bird Conservancy PLWB partnership operates in six western states (Colorado, New Mexico, Nebraska, Wyoming, South Dakota, and Montana) and Mexico (Chihuahua). PLWBs succeed through direct and meaningful relationships with landowners and supported by NRCS incentives provided through US Farm Bill and other habitat enhancement programs. This position will be located in northeastern New Mexico (Clayton, Tucumcari, and Roy field offices) and will require travel throughout the region (including Kiowa National Grassland). This is a full-time position with a comprehensive benefits package.

Duties and Responsibilities

- Serve as part of a team involving agency personnel, range management specialists, wildlife biologists, funding partners, and individual landowners that strive to identify priority conservation landscapes, improve grazing systems, design and implement habitat enhancement projects, and deliver community education and outreach programs.
- Prioritize habitat improvement and enhancement projects within the short-grass prairie/grassland systems that benefit a suite of grassland bird species.
- Enroll privately owned lands into the USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs by utilizing partnership efforts such as NMDGF, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and others.
- Complete contracts, applications, and other required documentation for Farm Bill Conservation Programs. This includes providing technical and programmatic support, including recommending management prescriptions for wildlife and livestock grazing conservation efforts, to NRCS and their clients.
- Develop and sustain cooperative working relationships with landowners, ranchers, farmers, conservation groups and other resource professionals.
- Use critical thinking to develop and implement conservation projects and habitat enhancement efforts targeting priority landscapes as outlined in various conservation plans (e.g. New Mexico State Wildlife Action Plan, Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan, etc.).
- Coordinate and participate in fieldwork activities for the benefit of wildlife and their habitats and livestock operations.
- Develop technical proficiency in conservation planning and agency business tools (e.g. Toolkit, Protracts, IDEA, etc.).
- Manage existing habitat projects by conducting monitoring, status reviews, and prescribing management activities.
- Identify, develop and provide formal trainings and products to landowners and other stakeholders for information and outreach.
- Assist partner agency and other collaborators in conducting biological assessment.
- Perform other duties as assigned by Bird Conservancy or NRCS.

Required knowledge, skills and abilities

- Deep and practical understanding of habitat restoration, range ecology and land and grazing management, livestock operations, with emphasis on upland birds, including grassland species.
- Knowledge of northeastern New Mexico flora and fauna, particularly grassland communities.
- Knowledge and confidence to implement wildlife habitat projects on a landscape scale where grazing land is the dominate land use.
- Working knowledge of US Farm Bill programs.
- Ability and desire to work with a diverse group of people including state, federal, and non-governmental resource professionals, agricultural producers and other community representatives.
- Motivated self-starter who is comfortable working independently under remote supervision.
- Strong written, verbal, and interpersonal skills.
- Valid state driver's license and ability to travel throughout the landscape on a regular basis, often to remote locations in inclement weather or adverse conditions.
- Exceptional organizational and time management skills.
- Willingness to perform administrative work in a controlled environment/office setting.
- Working knowledge of MS Office and GIS software is desirable.

Required education and experience

- Bachelor's degree (M.S. preferred) in a conservation field (e.g. wildlife biology, ecology, human dimensions of natural resources, rangeland ecology, etc.).

To apply:

Please send cover letter, resume, and contact information for 3 references **in one document** via email to adam.beh@birdconservancy.org with the title "Last Name_First Name_PLWB_New_Mexico_2018." Microsoft Word or PDF files only. **Applications must be received by September 16, 2018 to receive full consideration.**

For more information, contact Adam Beh via email at adam.beh@birdconservancy.org or by phone at (970) 482-1707 x12.