Ecosystem Services Research Scientist

Ducks Unlimited (DU), world leader in wetland conservation, seeks an accomplished and motivated Research Scientist to help provide science support for its conservation efforts across the United States with a focus on the ecosystem services provided by wetlands and associated habitats such as flood abatement, water quality improvement, and carbon sequestration in DU’s priority landscapes.

The successful candidate will join a growing team of scientists and conservation professionals across the US, Canada, and Mexico evaluating and communicating the outcomes of wetland, agricultural land, grassland and forest conservation programs central to DU’s mission. The Research Scientist will report to the Ecosystem Services Scientist and work alongside the National Science Team to develop data and literature syntheses, create geospatial planning models, support fundraising and policy efforts, and design research and monitoring projects in the field.

The ideal candidate will have experience measuring and or modeling ecosystem functions related to carbon, nutrient and/or water cycling in natural and/or agricultural ecosystems and the willingness to learn additional skills and ecosystems on the job, supported by DU and partner teams. The successful candidate will also have the opportunity to collaborate with DU’s conservation, policy, communications and fundraising teams to cultivate a broad skill set in conservation.

Specific Duties:

• In collaboration with DU colleagues, provide scientific input regarding the impacts of land-use changes and conservation programs and policies on the health and function of ecosystems using data, models, and literature review.
• Identify and articulate key scientific uncertainties associated with the ecosystem service outcomes of DU conservation programs and policy efforts.
• Aid in the development of modeling methods and field protocols for measuring water quality, soil health, carbon sequestration and other ecosystem outcomes from conservation projects.
• Communicate science efforts with other members of the DU team and partners in public agencies, communities, and the private sector.
• Learn and apply specific sustainability metrics and frameworks for accounting for the benefits of nature-based solutions such as Volumetric Water Benefits Accounting, Greenhouse Gas Protocol, and other similar frameworks.
• Support the development of grant proposals to fund science and conservation efforts.
• Publish and present research results in diverse forums including peer-reviewed journals and professional meetings.
• Support the development of communication and fundraising materials.

Minimum Qualifications:

• B.S. degree in Ecology, Limnology, Natural Resource Management, Soil Science, Agronomy, or a related field. M.S. degree preferred. Specific duties and on-the-job training will be tailored to suit the expertise of the successful candidate.
• 2+ years of combined graduate education or research experience in wetland ecology, water quality, limnology, aquatic ecology, or a related field.
• Experience working independently on measuring and/or modeling ecosystem functions (including undergraduate/graduate research).
• Self-motivated with excellent organization skills.
• Excellent communication skills.
• Ability to travel occasionally and work effectively off-site, including fieldwork.
• Ability to safely lift 50 pounds.
Desired Qualifications:

- Demonstrated experience with GIS software, preferable ArcGIS and programming in Python, R or similar.
- Demonstrated expertise of the development and management of databases.

The successful candidate will be expected to report to DU’s National Headquarters in Memphis, TN. Remote work arrangements from/in proximity to DU’s regional or field offices will be considered for exceptional candidates with a proven capacity to work under minimal supervisions.

To apply: Please complete the application materials on this link: https://tinyurl.com/9swxt9a8 and attach letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and daytime contact information (email & phone numbers) for three professional references. Transcripts or work samples may be requested for select candidates at a later date but please do not submit these or any other additional materials with your initial application. Application deadline is June 15, 2021. To request application materials, please contact Human Resources at hr@ducks.org.

For more information regarding this position please contact Dr. Ellen Herbert (eherbert@ducks.org)

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It is the policy of Ducks Unlimited, Inc. to afford equal employment opportunity to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, lactation and related medical conditions), sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age (40 or over), disability (physical, mental or visual), genetic information, marital status (including registered domestic partnership status), military and veteran status, immigration status, or any other category protected by federal, state or local law.