Job Summary

This position exists to support the Farmland Wildlife Populations and Research Group (hereafter, FaWPRG) in Minnesota’s farmland landscape by assisting the Upland Game Project Leader/Research Scientist 2 (hereafter, RS2), who provides overall direction for the FaWPRG’s upland game research program. The biologist collaborates with the RS2 and other FaWPRG scientists by: 1) planning, executing, and reporting original research on upland game populations (particularly ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys) and their habitats statewide; 2) evaluating the impacts that wildlife management policies, government farm programs, and changing land-use practices have on upland game and other farmland species; 3) developing and evaluating new techniques to assess and manage upland game populations; 4) disseminating advanced technical expertise to Wildlife staff, other natural resource professionals, and the public; and 5) representing the Department in public.

Primary Responsibilities Include:

- Assist the RS2 with identifying and executing independent and original research and population monitoring projects concerning the ecology, conservation, and management of upland game, especially ring-necked pheasants and wild turkeys, and their habitats in Minnesota in order to improve management effectiveness and conserve the resources.
- Organize, implement, and direct research and population monitoring projects using appropriate research and sampling techniques so study objectives are met, hypotheses are tested, and conclusions are drawn that are statistically and scientifically valid.
- Prepare technical and popular research reports and oral presentations for dissemination to technical, public, and media clientele that state the project rationale and techniques, basic results, and the interpretation and application of these data within the context of existing knowledge.
- Present data and/or technical assistance to committees and other professional and non-professional in verbal and written form so they can make and implement sound management decisions regarding the conservation and management of upland game birds and their habits. Advance wildlife science in Minnesota by remaining current in wildlife and other biological sciences, statistical design and analyses, computer applications, technology relevant to wildlife research and management, and peer collaborations.

Minimum Qualifications
• Master’s Degree in wildlife ecology or closely related field AND 2 years of professional (post-graduate) wildlife research experience;
• OR a Ph.D. in wildlife ecology or closely related field.

Additional Requirements:

• Knowledge of wildlife ecology and conservation, including habitat management and regulated harvest.
• Experience designing, organizing, and conducting management-oriented wildlife research.
• Experience conducting many phases of field work including capturing and handling of wildlife, terrestrial radiotelemetry, wildlife surveys, and vegetation surveys.
• Computer proficiency, including knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, and statistical programs sufficient to manage data input, retrieval and compilation, maintain databases, and train others to use these systems.
• Knowledge of statistics sufficient to interpret and analyze ecological data properly.
• Experience using ArcGIS and R.
• Experience communicating orally and in written form with diverse audiences, including both lay and peer groups, sufficient to document and disseminate completed research results.
• Capability to operate and maintain a variety of equipment including: traps and nets designed for capturing birds, telemetry equipment, ATVs/UTVs, and trailers.
• Ability to work in adverse weather and environmental conditions such as heat, rain/humidity, extreme cold, and being exposed to ticks and biting insects.
• Ability to work effectively and courteously with people.
• Experience leading the work of others.
• Experience preparing final reports, including authoring and publishing of scientific journal articles.
• Communication skills sufficient to maintain exemplary relationships with Minnesota wildlife managers and answer relevant research questions.

Preferred Qualifications

• Ph.D. in wildlife ecology or a closely related area.
• Research experience in avian ecology, particularly field-based research with upland game birds, wild turkeys, or grassland songbirds.
• Research and/or management experience with grassland wildlife and their habitats.
• Demonstrated proficiency with Program R and ArcGIS.
• Experience with radiotelemetry projects, including operating traps and nets designed for capturing birds, fitting radiocollars, and responding to and investigating mortality events.
• Knowledge of methods for estimating parameters of animal populations.
• Experience in the design, collection, and analysis of quantitative human dimensions surveys to assess hunter harvest and attitudes.
• Knowledge of Midwest Farm Bill programs.
• Publication of research results in the peer-reviewed literature, including at least 1 manuscript in review, in press, or already published in a wildlife management-oriented or applied focus journal.

Physical Requirements

Occasionally lifting articles such as 50 pound bags of feed maximum and frequently lifting and/or carrying objects such as heavy tools and file boxes. This job may require walking or standing to a significant degree on rough terrain or may involve sitting most of the time with pushing and pulling of arm and/or leg controls.

Additional Requirements

*This position requires an unrestricted Class D Driver’s License with a clear driving record*

It is policy of the Department of Natural Resources that all candidates submit to a background check prior to employment. All job offers are contingent upon passing the following components:
1. Criminal history check
2. Motor vehicle record
3. Employment reference checks
4. SEMA4 record check

Why Work For Us

The Department of Natural Resources is proud to operate within a Culture of Respect that provides a healthy, safe, and productive work environment for all employees. This means that our employees are supportive of a diverse workplace, are respectful to one another and to our customers. We believe that promoting a Culture of Respect allows our employees to do their best work in support of the agency’s mission.

GREAT BENEFITS PACKAGE! The State of Minnesota offers a comprehensive benefits package including low cost medical and dental insurance, employer paid life insurance, short and long term disability, pre-tax flexible spending accounts, retirement plan, tax-deferred compensation, generous vacation and sick leave, and 11 paid holidays each year.

How to Apply

Click "Apply" at the bottom of the page. If you have questions about applying for jobs, contact the job information line at 651-259-3637.

For additional information about the application process, go to http://www.mn.gov/careers.

Contact

If you have questions about the position, contact Dr. Tim Lyons at timothy.lyons@state.mn.us or 507-578-8914.

If you are a Connect 700 applicant, submit your certificate to Ashley Miranowski at ashley.miranowski@state.mn.us or fax to 651.296.6494 by the job posting close date.

The State of Minnesota is an equal opportunity, affirmative action, and veteran-friendly employer. We are committed to providing culturally responsive services to all Minnesotans. The State of Minnesota recognizes that a diverse workforce is essential and strongly encourages qualified women, minorities, individuals with disabilities, and veterans to apply.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) encourages participation in all its programs, services and activities and does not discriminate against qualified applicants with disabilities. Anyone who believes they may need a reasonable accommodation in order to fully participate in the job application, interview or selection processes may contact any agency official with whom applicant has contact in the processing of their employment application to request an accommodation. Applicants may also contact the DNR’s Affirmative Action office to request an accommodation by: E-mail: ADAdiversity.DNR@state.mn.us or by calling Sarah Spence-Koivist at 651.259.5016; or using MN Relay 711.