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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Sandhills Stewards Coordinator, Sandhills Task Force

Shelly Kelly, Broken Bow
Executive Director

Ashley Garrels, Broken Bow
Project Coordinator

Location: Preferred in or near the Sandhills, Nebraska, United States

Title: Sandhills Stewards Coordinator, Sandhills Task Force

Type: Full-time

Applications will be accepted until May 20, 2022.

Position Description

Purpose: The Sandhills Stewards Coordinator is a full-time staff position dedicated to furthering the growth, goal, and objectives of the Sandhills Task Force (STF). The STF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and land trust that is overseen by a Board of Directors composed of ranchers and agency and organizational representatives who facilitate collaborative conservation efforts in the Nebraska Sandhills. This position requires a sound working knowledge of Sandhills ranching, culture, and economics. The Sandhills Stewards Coordinator will work under the Executive Director, and they will work cooperatively with land stewards (owners, operators, tenants, etc.) and partner organizations for the betterment of ranching and the environment. The principal role of this position will be to enhance the management practices and profitability of ranch operations by building relationships, identifying goals, devising action plans, gaining cooperation, monitoring progress, and gathering, creating, and disseminating information. The Sandhills Stewards Coordinator will use a multi-disciplined approach to increase the sustainability of ranching operations.

The Sandhills Stewards Coordinator will be an employee of the Sandhills Task Force and will report to the STF Executive Director. Funds for the position have been raised in partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the World Wildlife Fund. The

Sandhills Stewards Coordinator will be responsible for continuing a flagship program that was started in 2021 to work one-on-one with ranchers to determine methods and goals for improving their management in ways to make them more profitable without mining resources. This could be done through creating or improving production record keeping, marketing plans, grazing plans, financial record keeping, enterprise analysis, and more. The employee will not need to have the knowledge to advise on all topics but will need to develop a large network of professionals that would be willing to work with ranchers on areas outside of the knowledge scope of the employee. Workshops will be organized by the employee to share information about management strategies and as a way to gather interest for one-on-one consultations.

Location: The Sandhills Stewards Coordinator will work throughout the 20,000 square-mile Nebraska Sandhills landscape (located predominately in north-central Nebraska). This is envisioned as a position with flexibility in location and will maintain a home office. The position will require regular travel within Nebraska (primarily the Sandhills). Mileage will be paid at the current IRS rate.

SPECIFIC JOB RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Continue to develop the new Sandhills Stewards Program
- Plan, organize, and host Sandhills Stewards Workshops
- Develop a large network of professionals to help ranchers meet their management goals
- Build relationships with individual ranch families, meet with them to learn about their operation, jointly create goals for management improvement, assist in reaching goals
- Communicate with partners to keep everyone updated on progress
- Create reports on accomplishments for grant reporting
- Maintain accurate detailed budget information
- Attend training to increase understanding of proven and innovative ranch management processes
- Develop newsletter to share information
- Advancing Collaborative Landscape Conservation Initiatives

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College degree, or equivalent experience, in Agricultural Economics, Finance, Natural Resource Management, or similar is preferred
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Well-organized and detail oriented
- Self-motivated, lots of initiative, eager to learn, able to work with minimal supervision, but willing to ask questions and seek direction if needed
- Professional demeanor

- Holistic Resource Management or Ranching For Profit training preferred
- Experience and understanding of the collaborative/community-based landscape conservation model
- Experience and credibility working with a wide range of landowners and managers of working landscapes

CHARACTERISTICS OF A SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE:

The STF seeks for this position an experienced professional who understands landowner and stewardship issues, is familiar with public agencies, possesses good business sense, and is eager to help grow an established conservation organization. The successful candidate must work independently and be willing to take initiative, must be comfortable and effective when communicating with a variety of audiences, and must be collaborative in nature.

COMPENSATION: Salary is based on experience with a range of \$35,000.00 - \$55,000.00 annually. Benefits include paid time off and Retirement with employer matching contributions.

Questions regarding this position may be referred to:

Shelly Kelly by phone at 308-214-0065 or email at shelly@sandhillstaskforce.org

The Sandhills Task Force is an equal opportunity employer.

STF's Vision of the Sandhills:

An intact rolling prairie landscape intermixed with wetlands, meadows, and streams, where diverse native plant and animal life prospers along with robust communities supported by a thriving ranching economy.

Mission of the Sandhills Task Force:

To partner with Sandhill ranchers; local communities, groups, and organizations; and local, state and federal agencies to identify, prioritize, plan, and implement mutually acceptable projects that benefit private ranching, wildlife and vegetative diversity, and associated water supplies.

Goal of the Sandhills Task Force:

To enhance the Sandhill wetland-grassland ecosystem in a way that sustains profitable private ranching, wildlife and vegetative diversity, and associated water supplies.

Additional information about the Sandhills Task Force is available at <http://www.sandhillstaskforce.org/>

How to Apply

Applications will be accepted until May 20, 2022. The application package should include a concise resume of experience including evidence that the candidate meets both the required qualifications and characteristics of a successful candidate as listed in this position announcement. Please include three references familiar with the candidate's professional accomplishments.

Candidates may submit their resume, references, and cover letter using one of the following methods:

1. By mail to: Sandhills Task Force, P.O. Box 482, Broken Bow, NE 68822
2. By email to: shelly@sandhillstaskforce.org