



# CONSERVATION OUTREACH SPECIALIST

FULL-TIME

FORSYTH, GA (PREFERRED) / FLEX

**Application Instructions:** To apply, please email a cover letter, resume and three (3) references in one PDF addressed to Michele Lawson, [michele@gfagrow.org](mailto:michele@gfagrow.org) by February 14, 2025.

The Georgia Forestry Association (GFA) and Foundation (GFF) is hiring a Conservation Outreach Specialist to help restore Georgia's longleaf pine forests and strengthen forest resilience. This position will engage over 2,000 landowners — including historically underserved landowners — to implement modern forest management practices by providing guidance on accessing Farm Bill and other cost-share programs, ultimately restoring 10,000 acres of critical habitat for species like the northern bobwhite and gopher tortoise.

**Why this work matters:** Longleaf pine forests once covered 90 million acres across the Southeast, but today less than 5% remain intact. Restoring these ecosystems is critical to preserving biodiversity, protecting water resources, and supporting climate resilience. By helping landowners access resources to manage their forests, the Conservation Outreach Specialist will play a vital role in keeping Georgia's forests working and sustainable for generations to come.

## Job Requirements:

### Outreach and Landowner Engagement:

- » Engage small-acreage and historically underserved landowners across Georgia to promote the restoration and conservation of longleaf pine habitat.
- » Work with landowners to identify and understand financial assistance programs, including Farm Bill programs such as EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program), CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program), and CRP (Conservation Reserve Program).
- » Coordinate and participate in outreach events, workshops, and field days to educate landowners about longleaf management and habitat restoration practices.
- » Collaborate with partners such as the Georgia Forestry Commission, McSEED, NRCS offices, The Longleaf Alliance, and other conservation organizations to maximize landowner engagement

### Technical Assistance and Cost-Share Support:

- » Provide personalized assistance to landowners applying for financial programs to implement climate-smart forestry practices, including prescribed burning, invasive species removal, overstory thinning, and planting native understory species.
- » Guide landowners through the process of enrolling in cost-share programs by assisting with documentation, timelines, and requirements to ensure timely and successful applications.

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- » Work with NRCS offices to ensure landowners have access to technical resources and service providers for longleaf restoration projects.
- » Facilitate the restoration and improvement of longleaf pine habitat on at least 10,000 acres of private land.

#### **Monitor and Reporting:**

- » Track and document landowner engagement, outreach events, and cost-share applications to measure progress toward program goals.
- » Report key metrics to partners and stakeholders, including the number of landowners reached, acres restored, and wildlife outcomes achieved.
- » Assist in developing case studies and success stories to highlight project impacts and promote ongoing engagement..

**Skills Required:** Ideal candidates will be comfortable in a collaborative role and will have the ability to manage multiple projects. Requirements will include:

- » Bachelor's degree in forestry, natural resources, wildlife management, or a related field. Preferred candidate would have at least two years of experience in agriculture or forestry outreach, conservation programs, or working with cost-share assistance programs.
- » Strong interpersonal and communication skills to engage with diverse landowner audiences and build trust.
- » Knowledge of Farm Bill programs (EQIP, CSP, CRP) and other financial assistance opportunities for landowners.
- » Familiarity with longleaf pine restoration practices, including prescribed burning, invasive species control, and habitat management.
- » Ability to work with partners across public and private sectors to achieve conservation goals.
- » Proficiency in tracking and reporting data to measure program outcomes.

#### **Compensation and Benefits:**

GFA offers a competitive, comprehensive benefits package including health care benefits (medical, vision, dental), a 401(k) plan with an 5% employer match after 6 months, paid time off, life insurance, disability coverage, employee assistance program, and other life and work well-being benefits. We're proud to offer a flexible work environment that supports the health and well-being of our team.

#### **Funding Disclaimer:**

This position is funded through a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Longleaf Stewardship Fund. The position is temporarily fully funded for up to four years, with potential for continuation depending on future funding availability.

#### **Equal Opportunity Employer Statement:**

The Georgia Forestry Foundation (GFF) is an equal opportunity employer. GFF complies with all applicable federal laws and regulations and does not discriminate based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity), national origin, age, disability, genetic information, marital status, or status as a covered veteran.