



LANDOWNER ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

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 by February 14, 2025.

The Georgia Forestry Association (GFA) and Foundation (GFF) is hiring a Landowner Engagement Coordinator to connect, enhance, and expand the conservation resources available to small-acreage and minority landowners across forestlands in Georgia. This role will focus on increasing forest management activities through outreach and education efforts, including hosting workshops, sharing technical assistance, and developing a statewide landowner database in need of access to cost-share programs and conservation resources. By engaging with private landowners, this position will support the restoration of critical habitat for species like the gopher tortoise and northern bobwhite.

Why this work matters: Georgia's forests are a vital part of the state's economy, environment, and way of life. However, following Hurricane Helene, many landowners face a number of barriers to re-establishing their land. The Landowner Engagement Coordinator will play a key role in connecting these landowners to conservation programs and financial assistance opportunities and organizations, helping to keep Georgia's forests healthy, resilient, and productive while restoring essential wildlife habitat.

Job Requirements: Ideal candidates will be highly organized, relationship-focused, and entrepreneurial. Responsibilities will include:

Outreach and Engagement:

- » Engage with small and minority landowners across Georgia to promote forest management practices that improve habitat for gopher tortoise, northern bobwhite, and other at-risk species.
- » Over two years, plan, coordinate, and host 50 workshops, field days, and issue-specific webinars to educate landowners on forest stewardship, cost-share opportunities, and sustainable forestry practices.
- » Collaborate with partner organizations such as the Georgia Forestry Commission, NRCS, The Longleaf Alliance, and McSEED to build trust and facilitate outreach efforts.

Technical Assistance and Support:

- » Assist the Outreach Team in supporting landowners in understanding and applying for federal and state financial assistance programs, including Farm Bill programs like EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentives Program) and CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program).
- » Provide direction and access to best practices for forest management activities such as prescribed

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burning, invasive species removal, and understory management to improve habitat conditions.

Database Development and Maintenance:

- » Develop and maintain a comprehensive landowner database to improve outreach efforts and track engagement across the state.
- » Utilize the database to identify absentee landowners and connect them to available resources and programs.
- » Regularly update and share the database with project partners to ensure accurate and effective landowner engagement.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- » Track and document outreach activities, workshop participation, and landowner engagement metrics to measure progress toward project goals.
- » Prepare regular reports for project partners and stakeholders, highlighting key outcomes such as the number of landowners engaged, acres impacted, and workshops conducted.

Skills Required:

- » Bachelor's degree in forestry, natural resources, wildlife management, or a related field.
- » Preferred candidate will have at least 2 years of experience of general sales or marketing, landowner outreach, conservation programs, or working with cost-share assistance programs.
- » Strong interpersonal and communication skills to engage with diverse landowner audiences and build trust.
- » Familiarity with Farm Bill programs (EQIP, CSP) and other financial assistance opportunities for landowners.
- » Knowledge of forest management practices, including prescribed burning, invasive species control, and habitat restoration.
- » Proficiency in database management and reporting tools.
- » Ability to collaborate effectively with public and private partners to achieve conservation goals.

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 America the Beautiful Challenge. The position is temporarily fully funded for up to two 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.