



SENIOR OUTREACH FORESTER

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) will be launching a Landowner Outreach and Technical Assistance Strategy to empower small-acreage and underserved landowners with the knowledge and resources to keep forests working and profitable. We are hiring a Senior Outreach Forester to lead the execution of this program to connect landowners with forest management tools, market opportunities, and technical support that unlock new revenue streams while promoting forest stewardship.

Why this work matters: Georgia loses approximately 118,000 acres of forestland per year to other land uses (i.e. development, solar, etc.). This loss is threatening ecosystems and the basis for rural economic growth. The Landowner Outreach Forester will play a direct role in helping landowners protect their forests by connecting them to timber markets, emerging ecosystem service markets and technical resources — ensuring these forests remain working assets that sustain both livelihoods and ecosystems for future generations.

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

Outreach and Engagement:

- » Conduct outreach to small-acreage and underserved landowners across Georgia using various tools and communications assets to promote forest management practices, cost-share programs, and access to timber and emerging ecosystem markets.
- » Coordinate landowner workshops on forest management and market access in collaboration with the GFA membership and communications teams.
- » Partner with organizations like McSEED, Georgia Forestry Commission, UGA Extension, and GFA member companies to build trust and deepen engagement with landowners.
- » Build relationships with local community leaders, extension agents, and forestry consultants to expand the program's reach and impact.

Technical Assistance and Support:

- » Serve as the primary point of contact for landowners seeking guidance on forest management and monetization of timber resources.
- » Provide personalized support to landowners in understanding technical requirements for participating in voluntary carbon markets, water quality initiatives, and biodiversity projects.

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- » Oversee the connections with landowners and service providers through GFA’s “Forestry Help Desk”
- » Work with the Communications Team to develop and update the Forestry 101 education platform as a central resource for landowners.
- » Identify funding and cost-share opportunities that reduce barriers for small-acreage, underserved landowners.

Monitoring and Reporting:

- » Track and document outreach activities, landowner engagement metrics, and program outcomes.
- » Assist in the development of tools for landowners to monitor and report on forest management activities through the Technical Assistance Program.
- » Prepare regular reports on program progress, challenges, and successes to share with partners and stakeholders.

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 with a minimum of 4 years of relevant natural resource experience. Preferred candidate has deep knowledge in southern forestry operations including but not specific to landowner outreach, conservation programs, or working with cost-share assistance programs.
- » Strong verbal and written communication skills to effectively engage with diverse landowner audiences.
- » Ability to build trust and maintain positive relationships with landowners, partners, and community stakeholders.
- » Understanding of traditional forest product markets, certification, carbon markets, water quality initiatives, and biodiversity conservation.
- » Ability to assess landowner needs and tailor solutions to overcome barriers to participation in traditional and emerging markets.
- » Capacity to innovate and adapt strategies based on landowner feedback and market developments.
- » Proficiency in using online tools and platforms for educational outreach, data collection, and reporting.
- » Familiarity with GIS mapping and CRM systems is a plus.

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 USDA Forest Service. The position is temporarily fully funded for up to three 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.