

Conservation Policy Director Position Description Playa Lakes Joint Venture

The Conservation Policy Director will work closely with the PLJV Coordinator to implement PLJV Management Board direction to develop effective policy strategy and activities to advance PLJV's conservation mission. S/he focuses on policy initiatives which provide large conservation opportunities such as Farm Bill programs and/or impact on PLJV's conservation programs such as biofuels, water, wind energy and transportation and energy transmission corridors. The Conservation Policy Director serves as liaison and informational contact to federal, state, and private groups. S/he identifies conservation policy and funding opportunities, evaluates the potential for PLJV partner involvement, and develops and implements strategies to influence policy and public funding for conservation at the regional level. S/he also serves as the contact with the external professional community in the policy arena to keep abreast of emerging land use changes that may be opportunities or threats to PLJV conservation activities. S/he helps to raise funds to implement new policy initiatives and training for partners in implementing new conservation initiatives.

MINIMUM REQUIRED EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's Degree in wildlife/environmental conservation or public/environmental policy with 10 years related experience.

PRIMARY DUTIES

- Track and pursue opportunities to advance PLJV's priorities related to public policy development related principally to Farm Bill programs but also including: biofuels, wind energy, energy transmission and transportation corridors and other large landscape change that can affect habitat within the PLJV.
- Track and pursue programmatic opportunities from USDA, DOI, DOE, and other agencies that can have an important effect on habitat within the PLJV.
- Build strong relations with public agencies, legislators, partner organizations to help advance PLJV's priority conservation activities.
- Lead policy initiatives in conjunction with PLJV Management Board, Staff and partners to develop focused and effective policy related to implementing PLJV's conservation mission.
- Develop, track, inform and educate about policy, regulations and budget issues related to wildlife and its habitat in PLJV.
- Draft comment letters, endorsement and opposition letters, policy position papers and other statements from PLJV. Seek review of letters and positions to reflect PLJV partnership's position.
- Represent PLJV in policy-maker briefings with key producers, industries and other stakeholder groups in the region.
- Represent PLJV in coalitions and on various advisory committees related to policy.
- Work with Communication Team Leader to develop media, communications and outreach materials related to policy issues.
- Work with biological planning staff to translate needs from biological planning into policy initiatives.
- Work closely with PLJV local conservation partnerships to provide policy and government relations advice regarding priority conservation activities.

- Help secure public and private funding for PLJV conservation activities.
- **KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS/ABILITIES**
- In-depth first-hand knowledge of Farm Bill and resultant land conservation programs and a working knowledge of other large scale regulatory and incentive programs (Clean Water Act, national energy policy, biofuels, Endangered Species Act, etc).
- Knowledge of current socio-economic and conservation issues in the PLJV.
- Excellent working knowledge of national and state decision-making related to wildlife and natural resource conservation issues.
- Knowledge of current land use trends and their likely effect on conservation.
- Understanding of and relevant experience in the culture of landowners in the PLJV.
- Ability to prepare and present proposals and negotiate with federal and state agencies to achieve program goals.
- Ability to persuasively convey the mission of PLJV to diverse groups including government officials and user groups who are critical to PLJV's success.
- Work in partnership with other organizations in a collaborative and advisory capacity.
- Ability to travel frequently within PLJV states and quarterly to Washington, DC.

SUPERVISOR

The position will report directly to and is evaluated by the PLJV Coordinator. PLJV Coordinator defines the work to be accomplished in terms of broad objectives and priorities, specifying methods and techniques only in the broadest sense. Annual work plans for the position will be determined by the PLJV Management Board and Coordinator. The Policy Director works to determine and develop methods and techniques most appropriate for accomplishing annual objectives. Job performance is reviewed in the context of policy initiatives established and accomplished resulting in habitat gains within the PLJV.

SALARY AND BENEFITS

Starting salary will range from \$55,000-\$75,000 per year and is commensurate with education and experience. Medical is provided though health insurance paired with a PLJV-funded Health Savings Account. Retirement is provided via a 403(b) to which PLJV contributes.

JOB LOCATION

Location can be anywhere in the PLJV region and where air transport is convenient.