



Job opening: Solar-Wildlife Project Manager

Organizational overview:

Wildlands Network is a growing non-profit organization that is committed to reconnecting, restoring and rewilding North America so that life in all its diversity can thrive. We have staff in the United States and Mexico working with NGO partners, landowners, elected officials and government agencies to protect, maintain and restore wildlife habitat and movement corridors.

Wildlands Network is committed to recruiting, training and retaining talented, diverse and creative staff who are passionate about fulfilling our mission.

Position description:

The Project Manager will oversee a study to evaluate and understand how wildlife interact with Utility Scale Solar Energy developments, and develop new methods and resources to identify and reduce conflict. This study will have two distinct project areas in Northwest New Mexico and eastern Arizona on the Navajo Nation. The project is a collaboration between multiple stakeholders including tribal, federal and state agencies, and the U.S. Department of Energy.

The Project Manager will serve as the dedicated representative for Wildlands Network and is responsible for the execution and delivery of all field-based research products and objectives. The project manager will aid the Senior Wildlife Biologist and Western Program Director in reporting, communication, and data analyses. The project manager will oversee at least 2 full-time field technicians and part-time interns, and must work cooperatively with all partners to oversee the research program. Field research will include tracking up to 80 pronghorns (*Antilocapra americana*), deploying and maintaining up to 100 trail cameras, and conducting other surveys to document wildlife before and after solar development. The project manager will be the primary overseer of all data collection, editing and storage, and will assist senior project staff to generate reports, plot and map data, aid in or conduct analyses, and provide communications to partners, agencies, and solar developers.

This position reports directly to Wildlands Network's Senior Wildlife Biologist for the Western program based in Farmington, NM and will work closely with other remote Wildlands Network staff including the western program director and Chief Scientist. The Project Manager position will be based in Farmington, NM or the immediate surrounding area.

Primary Responsibilities include:

- Train, oversee, and assist field staff to execute survey protocols and collect data in standardized formats
- Develop and maintain database with a variety of data types including GPS collar data and trail camera photos, and develop reports and maps on a quarterly basis ensure data are implemented into quarterly reports and maps
- Deploy and maintain an array of 100 trail cameras and associated data including identification of photographic data
- Conduct field-based survey methods to identify the presence, absence, relative abundance, and space-use of mammalian species
- Communicate weekly progress reports on all field and data management issues and progress to the Senior Scientist and Program Direction and to partners or interested parties
- Aid in the develop and implementation of survey protocols for identifying occupancy, habitat and space-use and movements of mammals in grassland and desert ecosystems
- Aid the organization of annual meetings with partners and collaborators
- Maintain all equipment, supplies, and other logistical considerations to ensure the goals of the project are met in a timely fashion
- Aid the Senior Scientist with literature reviews, data analyses, and development of additional products
- Ensuring timely delivery of grant reports and financial invoicing

Desired Qualifications:

- A minimum of a Bachelor of Science degree and associated research experience in wildlife biology/ecology or related fields or specialties. Preference for those with a Master of Science degree.
- Experience working in renewable energy, energy development, or monitoring wildlife in the face of renewable energy preferred.
- Highly detailed and organized individual with experience running large-scale wildlife projects with diverse partners.
- Independent, critical thinker that can interpret overarching scientific approaches and project goals and implement them at the ground level.
- Demonstrated experience collecting managing large amounts of data across multiple data types. Database management experience preferred.
- Experience with handling and capturing of mammals and tracking them using VHF and GPS collars. Preference for those with experience with pronghorns or other ungulate species.
- Experience with the identification of mammals and birds through photographs, visual identification, and tracks or scat.
- Demonstrated success managing field-based technicians in the collection and maintenance of data
- Experienced in field-based skills including navigation with compass and GPS units, driving four-wheel drive vehicles, and working in rugged and remote locations.

- 3+ years of relevant project management and technical experience.
- Experience working with state and/or federal agency personnel engaged in wildlife management projects.
- Proficient knowledge and use of computer applications for collecting data, analyzing data, and using spatial software and tools.
- Experience with financial and grant reporting
- Experience with using or developing siting applications or rubrics for renewable energy
- Previous authorship of reports, peer-reviewed papers and familiarity with publication process.
- Ability to manage competing tasks and tight deadlines.
- Ability to work effectively within a diverse team of stakeholders
- Willingness and ability to travel regularly within Arizona and New Mexico.
- Good physical fitness with ability needs to be able to hike up to 2 km from vehicles with equipment and work in extreme weather and terrain

Location: based in Farmington NM with field duties extending into Arizona.

Salary: \$55,000-\$60,000, dependent on experience and qualifications

Benefits: Generous paid vacation, sick, family leave and sabbatical policies; employer-sponsored health and dental coverage; 10K life insurance policy; access to retirement account; support for ongoing professional development.

Job Type

Full-time, 4-year appointment

Wildlands Network is an equal opportunity employer.

How to Apply: To apply, please send your cover letter and resume and contact information for two references to Dr. Aaron Facka at aaron@wildlandsnetwork.org. Please include the phrase "Project Manager" in the subject line to ensure full consideration.

Application Deadline: March 31, 2023 (TBD)

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: Wildlands Network is committed to increasing equity, diversity, inclusion and justice in all elements of our work and with our partners to support the interconnected needs of wildlife and people in a rapidly changing world. We recruit, employ, train, compensate, and promote regardless of race, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex (including pregnancy), sexual orientation, gender identity, age, physical or mental disability, citizenship, genetic information, past, current, or prospective service in the uniformed services, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal, state, or local law. We are proud to be an equal opportunity employer. Applicants are invited to learn more about Wildlands Network's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion [here](#).

If you have a disability and require an accommodation or assistance with our application process, please tell us how we can help by calling us at 385-229-4849.

The requirements listed in our job descriptions are guidelines and if you have many of the qualifications listed, we encourage you to apply. We are committed to providing training and professional development opportunities to help the right candidate succeed with us. Applying gives you the opportunity to be considered.