

Title: South Dakota Grassland Task Force Director

Position Class: Director

FLSA Status: Full Time/Exempt/Salary

Supervision / Reports to: This unique position will be supervised by the South Dakota Grassland Coalition (SDGC). There may be potential for the position to be performed as a full-time detail by current employees of another agency or organization.

Location: Pierre (preferred) or other South Dakota location with flexible telework, open to negotiation

Salary range: \$95,000 per year plus benefits

Position Term

Full Time - Two Years with extended potential (dependent on future funding)

Benefits: This is a full-time position with paid personal leave, retirement (IRA), single person health insurance, and supplemental insurances are provided as benefits.

Position Overview:

The South Dakota Grassland Coalition along with its partners is seeking a SD Grassland Task Force Director. The Director will serve to coordinate the efforts of the SD Grassland Task Force and serve as a liaison/representative of the Task Force to the Central Grasslands Roadmap and other groups (www.grasslandsroadmap.org).

A qualified candidate will be an excellent communicator with a strong record of developing and maintaining high-functioning partnerships. He/she will have several years of experience working with diverse grassland-based partners and communities including Indigenous, private landowners, NGOs, state, and federal partners. Applicants are expected to have a working knowledge of grassland systems and be committed to serve as an advocate for grassland conservation. Candidates with strong coordination and communication experience along with a passion for grasslands are encouraged to apply.

Essential Job Duties and Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership and serve as the primary spokesperson for the SD Grassland Task Force and the Grasslands Roadmap effort in South Dakota.
- With guidance from the SD Grassland Task Force, develop a statewide Grasslands Roadmap Strategy and Implementation Plan to increase collaboration among partners both in and out of South Dakota, improve collective conservation efforts to reduce grassland loss, and improve outreach to producer and non-producer audiences including underserved communities.
- Provide strategic direction and oversight for grassland conservation efforts by serving as the primary champion for South Dakota's grasslands, implementing organizational priorities, securing funding, recruiting new partner organizations, presenting at local, regional, national, and international meetings and coordinating future conferences. Serve as a point of contact for partners and producers.
- Represent South Dakota interests within the Central Grasslands Roadmap initiative.
- Coordinate with key intra and inter-state conservation groups serving South Dakota, including but not limited to: SD Association of Conservation Districts, American Bird Conservancy, Audubon, The Nature Conservancy, Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, and others.
- Liaise with key state and federal agency staff (NRCS, SD GF&P, SDSU Extension) for coordination and integration of local efforts with national and state grassland conservation delivery strategies.
- Communicate and coordinate amongst partners regarding funding opportunities and applications.
- Regularly convene and facilitate meetings of the SD Grasslands Task Force and coordinate strategies and outcomes with the larger Central Grasslands Roadmap initiative.
- Collaborate with partners to assess needs for research and assist partners to study and find conclusions.

- Organize and convene working committees to deliver the SD Grasslands Stakeholder Summit.
- Work with partners to develop and deliver messaging around the importance of grasslands for all South Dakotans.

Other Duties:

- Support metrics and tracking of key measurables with partners and working groups to meet annual goals. Build off broad metrics developed from existing efforts and work with partners to create strategic goals as warranted.
- As needed, secure and supervise contractual workers to provide educational programming, technical assistance or other functions.
- Assist partners with community conversations as needed across the Central Great Plains region.

Preferred Knowledge, Skills and Experience:

- Bachelor’s degree or other equivalent experience facilitating collaboration and outreach
- Multiple years of experience working with or leading partners to build common goals and successful collaborative initiatives
- Strategic thinker and motivator
- Excellent communication skills both verbal and written
- Positive energy and “can do” attitude

Physical Demands / Work Environment:

The physical demands described here are representative of those that must be met by an employee to successfully perform the essential functions of this job. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.

- Ability to work in a standard office setting, with considerable sitting, standing, and viewing of computer.
- Requires reaching continually throughout the workday (mouse, keyboard, telephone).
- May include lifting up to thirty (30) pounds of project gear on an infrequent basis. Proper lifting techniques required.
- Able to stand, walk, and hike for extended periods of time outside in all weather.
- Ability to travel throughout South Dakota and potentially out of state.

Travel

Frequent travel may be required for outreach, meetings, workshops, etc.

Material and Equipment Directly Used:

- Ability to maintain or secure a valid driver’s license
- Standard office equipment (e.g., laptop, printers) and software applications.

To Apply:

Please submit your cover letter, resume and contacts for three references to sdexecutive@sdconservation.net with “Grasslands Director” in the subject line or mail to:

SD Association of Conservation Districts
 PO Box 515
 Presho, SD 57568

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled. Preference will be given to those applications submitted before May 15, 2023.