

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

**TITLE:** Grand River Grasslands Site Manager  
**LOCATION:** Hatfield, Missouri  
**DATE POSTED:** 20 September, 2006

**Summary of Position**

The Grand River Grasslands Site Manager develops and implements conservation activities within the Grand River Grasslands, a 70,000 acre grassland project area in northwestern Missouri and southwestern Iowa with multiple natural communities and conservation targets in public and private ownership. A key emphasis of the project is Dunn Ranch, a nearly 4,000 acre Conservancy Preserve that is the focus of an intensive prairie restoration initiative.

This position works closely with the Missouri Department of Conservation, NRCS, private landowners, and Iowa DNR to accomplish priority grassland conservation goals, manage and restore core landscapes, aggressively develop, test, and document prairie restoration technologies, and develop effective outreach to promote suitable practices. This position also works to support project development activities, including securing grant funds, and implementing donor tours and presentations. The Grand River Grasslands Site Manager is part of the Missouri program's conservation team, which includes on-site preserve and administrative assistants, as well as other staff at other Missouri locations; the position also works closely with Iowa TNC staff.

The Grand River Grasslands Site Manager may work in variable weather conditions, at remote locations, on difficult and hazardous terrain, and under physically demanding circumstances. These conditions may require considerable physical exertion and/or muscular strain; present frequent possibility of injury; and require long hours in isolated settings.

**Duties**

- Maintain exemplary program of site stewardship and restoration on core sites, including all aspects of routine land management, invasive species control, fire management activities, grazing issues, farm program activities, interpretive and outreach activities, and assisting with ecological monitoring and scientific research.
- Working closely with partners, develop effective program of private landowner outreach to incorporate compatible conservation practices into production activities on priority private lands.
- Work closely with stakeholders and partners in Iowa and Missouri to secure coordinated action towards conservation goals within the Grand River Grasslands.
- Employ a full range of protection tools to acquire varying degrees of legal interest in land and implement a variety of strategies to secure public and private support for TNC conservation priorities.
- Develop and implement annual and long term work plans and budgets, and ensure appropriate procedures, documentation and internal communication to facilitate efficient administrative function and policy compliance.
- Work closely with OU staff and partners to identify and secure public and private funding opportunities to support program function, including preparation of grant applications, and hosting donor tours and presentations.

- In conjunction with outside expertise, develop and implement prairie restoration program focused on Dunn Ranch, with goal of developing site into a demonstration facility for innovative techniques to achieve high-diversity restoration of tallgrass prairie; maintain cooperative program of native seed and plant production to produce diverse assortment of locally derived plant genotypes to support restoration activities.
- Develop and implement ecologically-driven bison management program on Dunn Ranch, including interpretation and visitor services.
- Serve as a key member of the Missouri fire management program, with primary responsibility for safe, effective, efficient implementation of appropriate fire regimes in key northern Missouri sites and landscapes; assist with statewide fire management activities as needed.
- Coordinate, hire, train and supervise project staff, seasonal workers, researchers, contractors and volunteers.
- Promote awareness of site activities, conservation goals, and ecological significance with various audiences through tours, presentations, and written materials.
- Work closely with TNC staff in Missouri and Iowa to achieve conservation goals and secure resources and support for project.

### Requirements

- Bachelor's degree (Masters preferred) and two years of post-graduation work experience in applied conservation, natural resources, range management or prairie management with demonstrated conservation focus; familiarity with Midwestern ecosystems and tallgrass prairie, and an understanding of both theoretical and practical aspects of ecological land management; experience in prairie restoration helpful
- Demonstrated experience and competence with physical aspects of land management and associated equipment, including fence construction and repair, soil erosion control, standard agricultural and grazing practices, and livestock issues. Fluency with operation and maintenance of trucks, ATV's tractors, chain saws, brush cutters, and other land management/prairie restoration equipment.
- Ability to achieve physical fitness standard as determined by local Fire Program Manager. Must be able to pass Work Capacity Test ("Pack Test") at the level of moderate or above.
- Knowledge of and experience with fire management and prescribed fire issues, including the ability to plan and conduct safe, effective prescribed fires in large grassland units; Federal certification as RxB2 fire leader highly desirable. Candidate must have ability to pass required training courses and achieve such certification within two years of employment.
- Working knowledge of common software applications (e.g. Word, Excel, Web browsers).
- Superior written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to produce and deliver cogent, compelling products and presentations for audiences at all levels
- Demonstrated enthusiasm and commitment to conservation and pragmatic applied ecological management and restoration.

### To apply for this position

Mail cover letter and resume to:

Cindy Pessoni  
The Nature Conservancy  
2800 S. Brentwood Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63144

Or email to:

Cindy Pessoni - cpessoni@tnc.org  
*Please include your cover letter & resume  
as attachments in MS Word format.  
Please reference job title in subject line.*

Application deadline is October 20, 2006

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