

Job Title: Land Manager

Location: Cape Cod, Massachusetts (housing provided if desired)

Job Type: Full-Time

Introduction

Located on an island adjacent to the shores of southern Massachusetts, the property has been in the care of a single family for nearly 200 years, and includes a farm, stables, and a few family houses. Most of the acres are undeveloped forest, grasslands, and seashore. The forest is predominantly American Beech, which is undergoing severe mortality due to a combination of Beech Bark Disease and Beech Leaf disease. We are seeking a professional land manager to assist us in managing the transition of our forest, as well as in managing our grasslands, coordinating the volunteer work of family members, addressing physical safety and ecological health during transition, and documenting landscape changes. The position combines the analysis, planning, and development of silvicultural practices and the hands-on implementation of clearing, cutting, mowing, and planting. This is an exceptional opportunity to steward a remarkable and unique ecosystem through a time of dynamic change, with opportunities for long-term growth.

Responsibilities

- Implement practices designed to maintain safe and open access to the island via the road network, including tree cutting alongside roads and clearing as needed.
- Implement practices designed to maintain open grasslands in designated locations, including mowing, fencing, and livestock management.
- Promote forest and grasslands health and species biodiversity through targeted management of non-native invasive species, tree cutting, and selective tree planting and fencing.
- Collaborate with existing farm staff, family members, consulting foresters, environmental scientists, public agencies, and other stakeholders to ensure sustainable land management.
- Conduct regular mapping and monitoring activities to track forest and grassland health and growth, and in support of research studies, grant support, long term planning, and integration of external expert resources.

Required Qualifications

- Proven experience in applied forest and grasslands management; experience managing conservation lands, parks, or other facilities; and comfort overseeing contractors, volunteers, interns, and external researchers.
- Proficiency operating tractors, mowers, chainsaws, grapples/shears, skid steers, and related equipment.

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in Forestry, Environmental Science, or a related field.
- Strong understanding of and experience applying conservation principles and ecological restoration techniques to landscapes undergoing ecosystem change.
- Proficiency in Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and ability to oversee development of mapping and data tools to support applied land management.
- Excellent analytical and communication skills and leadership potential.

Qualifications that are welcome but not required

- Society of American Forestry (SAF) certification.
- Master's degree or equivalent experience in Forestry, Environmental Science, or a related field.
- Familiarity with livestock management.
- Certification in herbicide use for management of non-native invasive plant species.

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to work outdoors in all weather conditions.
- Physical fitness to walk long distances and navigate uneven terrain.
- Ability to lift 40 lbs.

Benefits

- Housing available if desired.
- Paid vacation and partial health insurance.
- Company 401K contribution.

Application Process:

Interested candidates are invited to submit their resume, cover letter, and references to Bracken Hendricks, J.M. Forbes Company, 121 Mt. Vernon Street, Boston, MA 02108 Telephone: 617-423-5705; Email: bh@jmforbes.com