



## MOHONK PRESERVE

P.O. Box 715

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Daniel Smiley Research Center

[www.mohonkpreserve.org](http://www.mohonkpreserve.org)

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### JOB DESCRIPTION APPLIED FOREST ECOLOGIST

Job Classification: Regular

FLSA Status: Exempt

Time: Full-time – 100%

Reports to: Associate Director of Conservation Science & Research

Supervises: Seasonal field technicians and interns

#### Responsibilities:

The Applied Forest Ecologist is responsible for developing and implementing ecological research, and decision-support tools to enhance the management of forest lands so they can be sustainable and resilient in a changing world. This position requires an understanding of how forests work and how it intersects with applied knowledge linked to forest management and assessment. The Applied Forest Ecologist will work with land managers and practitioners, within and external to the Preserve, to produce data-driven science that informs, improves and expands land management decision making. This position resides in the Conservation & Community Education Department and actively participates in departmental initiatives and community engagement to advance the Preserve's mission. It requires a variable combination of office and field time, dictated by season and project priorities.

#### Job Duties:

##### Project & Data Management

- Evaluate the impacts of multiple climate change drivers on forest communities to inform landscape conservation and the creation and implementation of management plans
- Design and implement ecological research and monitoring projects, ensuring scientifically valid methodologies for evaluating forest stand improvement, invasive species management, and ecological and/or human impacts on the land
- Review and provide scientific input on land use policies, management plans, and environmental assessments; and actively contribute to any necessary updates
- Serve as the program administrator for Mohonk Preserve's hunting-based Deer Management Program
- Manage scientific data workflows, including data entry, quality control, and analysis, to support the preparation of technical reports, presentations, and formalized management plans
- Utilize Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and remote sensing tools to analyze landscape-scale ecological patterns, and support forest management goals

##### Administration & Team Collaboration

- Support the Associate Director of Conservation Science & Research in the collection of ecological data for the Preserve's various monitoring projects
- Coordinate with the Associate Director of Land Protection & GIS to effectively use spatial data to support forest management goals

- Contribute applied ecological knowledge and recommended practices towards community science efforts
- Provide creative and data-informed content and expertise for new grant proposals, and aid in other Development efforts to support Mohonk Preserve's Conservation and Community Education initiatives
- Participate in annual budget and workplan forecasting/tracking in collaboration with Conservation and Community Education leadership
- Engage in intra- and interdepartmental collaboration to foster communication and trust, and to align Conservation Science goals with broader Preserve activities and operations
- Perform other related duties to support the Conservation and Community Education department and Mohonk Preserve as assigned by the Associate Director of Conservation Science & Research

#### Community Engagement

- Consult and work with Mohonk Preserve's Research Associates and other scholars and practitioners to leverage the best available scientific information to inform the Preserve's land management goals, plans and actions
- Serve as the primary contact for external contractors enacting forest management plans, including preparing and administering contracts for assigned project areas, and ensuring contractor silviculture activities are compliant with the applicable regulations
- Lead public programs and volunteer activities that engage the community in conservation
- Represent the organization at meetings, conferences, and events as needed to promote and explain the Preserve's objectives
- Actively participate in regional partnerships with other conservation organizations

#### Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Ecology, Climate Science, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Planning, Forestry, or related field, and 3+ years of related, OR equivalent combination of education and experience
- Knowledge of theory, policy, principles and practices of forest management as applied to the Northeastern United States (i.e., fundamentals of: ecology of local flora and fauna, silviculture of Northeast species, vegetation community assessments, grazing regimes, stand inventory, invasive species mitigation and control, reforestation and intensive forest practices, climate science, and basic principles of forest management)
- Must be able to identify management needs and develop/implement appropriate data collection, analysis, and formalized forest management plans
- Experience with project management including proven ability to set and implement priorities; plan and organize multiple projects; execute management initiatives, including budgeting, timelines, and permitting processes; and evaluate project success
- Knowledge of GIS, GPS, and other relevant technologies for navigation and forest management planning
- Supervisory skills and experience required

#### Other Requirements:

- Strong technical writing skills, including preparation of reports, policies, procedures, and other documentation
- Ability to utilize and adhere to established systems of communication and build and foster effective working relationships with fellow staff, community members, contractors, and other forestry and conservation partners

- Excellent computer skills - Microsoft Office 365 applications, remote work platforms (e.g., Teams, Zoom), project/data management tools
- Ability to work outdoors in remote locations, traverse and navigate back-country, off-trail land conditions of varying, sometimes rugged terrain while carrying 30 lbs. of equipment for extended periods
- Commitment to backcountry stewardship and Leave No Trace ethics
- Valid driver's license; clean driving record; ability to pass background check
- Possession of or ability to obtain, within one year of hire, designated certificates in First Aid and CPR
- Willingness to work occasional irregular hours, including some weekends, evenings, and/or holidays
- Commitment to ensuring that all people are respected and welcomed at the Mohonk Preserve.
- Bonus skills:
  - Wilderness First Aid certification or higher
  - Familiarity with prescribed fire and writing/implementing burn plans
  - Familiarity with Lidar, ortho-imagery, and remote-sensing data tools
  - Quantitative data analysis skills
  - Intermediate/advanced proficiency in GIS data management, spatial analysis, and map creation
  - Pesticide Applicator license
  - Training and experience safely using a chainsaw, and operating basic hand tools and smaller equipment such as pole saws, and brush cutters
  - Game of Logging Level I & II, I-IV preferred
  - Bilingual

Equal Opportunity Employer: Mohonk Preserve is an equal employment opportunity employer dedicated to creating a culture where employees from various backgrounds can thrive and support our mission. Mohonk Preserve encourages applications from women, minorities and/or other underrepresented groups. We provide reasonable accommodations to individuals who require them based on disability, pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions, and religion. Accommodations are meant to enable employees to perform the essential functions of their positions without imposing an undue hardship on our operations. If you require an accommodation, please contact human resources.

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