

JOB DESCRIPTION

TITLE: Fire Management Specialist
SUPERVISOR: Conservation Director
LOCATION: Albany Pine Bush Preserve

Located in the heart of New York's Capital Region, the Albany Pine Bush Preserve currently consists of 3,200 protected acres. The Preserve serves to protect a globally rare inland pine barrens ecosystem, the federally endangered Karner blue butterfly, numerous other rare species and natural communities and a wide diversity of additional species. The Preserve is an invaluable open space, recreational and educational resource for Capital Region residents, businesses and visitors. Protection and management of the Preserve is the responsibility of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve Commission (APBPC), which was created by the NY State legislature in 1988. Commission members and partners work cooperatively toward Pine Bush conservation including acquiring additional Preserve lands, providing consultation on proposed development within the Pine Bush area and providing resources to implement the management of the Preserve. The Commission consists of representatives from The Nature Conservancy, City of Albany, Towns of Colonie and Guilderland, Albany County, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and four private citizens appointed by the Governor.

SUMMARY OF POSITION:

The Fire Management Specialist ("FMS") takes lead responsibility for the Albany Pine Bush fire management program, providing leadership, direction, and oversight of all fire management activities. The FMS ensures that all fire activities meet national, state, and local regulations and standards, and works with conservation and stewardship staff to implement fire management and related strategies to abate the threat of altered fire regimes at the Albany Pine Bush Preserve. As outlined in the APBPC's 2010 Management Plan, the FMS takes a lead role in assuring the necessary resources are in place to implement a safe, effective program in a semi-urban environment. This includes, but is not limited to: burn prescription preparation/approval, equipment, training, implementation, and adequate experienced staff and volunteers to enable the program to meet or exceed NY State and National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards. The FMS represents the APBPC and its burn program in professional, private and public forums related to fire management such as prescribed burn councils and state and local governments. The FMS also assists state (NYSDEC), federal (USDA-FS, USDOD, USDI – NPS) and private partners (The Nature Conservancy) as needed in wildland fire training and implementation.

DUTIES

1. Ensure that the APBPC's fire program meets national, state and local standards and regulations related to fire management. Design and implement standards or requirements specific to the Albany Pine Bush.
2. Serve as the APBPC's expert in ecological fire management and develop and maintain partnerships with agencies, fire departments, the public and other groups that promote ecological fire management initiatives. Promote interagency cooperation and develop relationships with other fire management professionals in the Northeast and nationally.
3. Plan and prepare fire management and wildfire response plans and burn prescriptions. Update prescriptions as needed, following management or every five years. Serve as burn boss on prescribed burns in the Albany Pine Bush Preserve and maintain coordination of burn schedules, crew, equipment needs, permits and other logistical details. Maintain extensive public notification procedures and expand public outreach efforts to include local agencies, fire departments, interest groups, etc.
4. Work cooperatively with State and Federal agencies to conduct fire training and increase fire management capacity for the APBPC and NY State.
5. Work with conservation and stewardship staff to plan and coordinate fire management throughout the Preserve and evaluate the effects of burning in different fuel types, in different seasons and under different conditions. Modify fire management activities and support the implementation of alternative management

strategies requisite to restoring altered fire regimes and meeting the conservation goals described in the 2010 Management Plan for the Preserve.

6. Assist state or federal agencies and The Nature Conservancy as needed and appropriate to facilitate the planning, training and execution of safe fire management activities at other sites, including assisting with NWCG compliance.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Advanced degree or bachelor's degree and/or equivalent experience in a natural science or resource management program.
2. Minimum of three to five year's experience in natural areas management, wildland fire and prescribed burning. Certification through State or Federal agency in wildland fire management. RXB2 or RXB3 trainee or certification is strongly preferred.
3. Excellent organizational skills and the ability to effectively communicate verbally and in writing. Ability to produce complex written documents on schedule. Experience in prescribed burn planning, including prescription writing, the use of BEHAVE. GIS skills required.
4. Proven ability to handle significant responsibility, evaluate policies, maintain composure and assess risk effectively under potentially stressful conditions.
5. Excellent interpersonal skills. Proven effectiveness in working with public agencies and other land managers. Ability to achieve cooperation, and compliance with policies and guidelines. Ability to work with volunteers and a wide variety of partners.
6. Strong drive for results and commitment to accomplishment within the clear confines of safety and other inflexible parameters. Patience and perseverance a plus.
7. Proven effectiveness in training a wide variety of people in ecological land management, including fire management.
8. Ability to annually achieve the arduous level of physical fitness as defined by the National Interagency Incident Management System Wildland Fire Qualifications System Guide (NWCG PMS 310-1)..
9. Willingness to travel frequently, on short notice and overnight.

SEND RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO:

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NO PHONE CALLS