Conservation & Stewardship Manager Job Opening

Kestrel Trust is an accredited land trust serving the heart of the Connecticut River Valley of western Massachusetts. Kestrel is seeking to hire a Conservation & Stewardship Manager to join a staff of six in conserving and caring for woodlands, wildlands, and farmland in partnership with local communities.

The Conservation and Stewardship Manager is responsible for completing land conservation and stewardship projects under the supervision of the Executive Director and in close collaboration with other staff. Projects will be prioritized to fulfill the organization’s strategic conservation goals.

Public Conservation Partnerships: Develop and maintain good working relationships with municipal Conservation Commissions, Conservation Agents, Town Planners, and State and Federal Agencies to support the creation and expansion of public conservation areas and public trails, some of which are permanently protected by a Conservation Restriction held by Kestrel Land Trust. Each partner needs a different kind of support and collaboration. The wide range of activities may include landowner outreach and negotiations, arranging for appraisals, due diligence, and legal work, budgeting, financial reporting, fundraising, grant writing, participating in town meetings, baseline reports, trail mapping, and conservation restriction drafting.

Conservation Restriction Monitoring and Defense: Oversee all KLT Conservation Restrictions (CRs) in accordance with KLT policies and in a manner that meets the Standards and Practices of the Land Trust Alliance, including maintaining communications with all CR landowners, which include municipalities, institutions, and private owners, ensuring up to date baseline documentation, annual monitoring of all CRs with trained volunteers or temporary contractors as needed, and maintaining records and insurance for all CRs.

LANDSCAPE and GIS Database Management: Support conservation and stewardship staff to enter and maintain data in LANDSCAPE parcel information, maps, tasks, and supporting documentation. Create maps in GIS to support projects and identify strategic conservation focus areas.

Volunteer Management: Collaborate with other staff to recruit, train, and retain volunteer monitors and other conservation and stewardship volunteers serving on the Stewardship Committee and through the S-Colleges.

Project Management, Fundraising and Administrative Support: Willingness to manage any other projects assigned by Executive Director to support Kestrel’s mission to conserve, care for, and connect people to land, including administrative duties and fundraising efforts.

Qualifications

- Strong personal commitment to wildlife habitat protection, forest stewardship, and local agriculture;
- Masters degree or equivalent experience preferred in environmental studies, natural resource management, environmental law, or land use and regional planning;
- 3 years professional experience managing conservation projects or comparable experience;
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, including an aptitude for teamwork, an ability to connect with people from all walks of life, good sense of humor, flexible work style, and a positive attitude;
- Demonstrated ability to negotiate with multiple parties about complex issues; attention to detail; ability to manage multiple projects; and willingness to pursue creative problem solving;
- Strong writing, budgeting and computer skills; proficiency using GIS and GPS;
- Ability to navigate and physically walk remote land parcels.

Location, Hours, Compensation: Kestrel Land Trust’s office is located in Amherst, Massachusetts. 40-hours/week with a flexible schedule. Some local travel and evening and weekend meetings are required. Salary is commensurate with experience. Health care and other benefits offered.

Application Procedure: Send cover letter with salary requirements, resume, and two letters of reference as a pdf to info@kestreltrust.org. No phone calls or snail mail, please. Closing Date: January 31, 2018.