EXTENSION EDUCATOR (Renewable Natural Resources/Forestry Educator)

Campus/Location: Penn State Extension, District 3
Work Unit: College of Agricultural Sciences
Department: Penn State Extension, District 3
Full/Part Time: Full–Time

Level/Band/Classification: 03 – H – Exempt
04 - I - Exempt
05 - K – Exempt

The College of Agricultural Sciences is seeking an individual trained in forest resource management to join our nationally recognized Penn State Extension Renewable Natural Resources Team. As a member of this statewide team, the individual will be responsible for actively working to identify important educational needs and learning objectives, and implementing programs that address them. Team members are expected to participate programmatically at the state and district level. In addition, team members are expected to develop a diverse external funding portfolio (e.g. grants, contracts, cost recovery, development) in support of the team’s programs. The individual will be expected to develop original content to engage audiences through innovative educational methods such as online courses, videos, mobile apps, and electronic publications in addition to traditional publications and in-person presentations. Pennsylvania has approximately 17 million forested acres covering nearly 60 percent of the state. These forests are important for furnishing products (wood and non-timber), jobs, clean water, and habitat for wildlife. Pennsylvania is the nation’s leader of hardwood lumber production. Significantly, nearly three-quarters (70%) of the state’s forestland is in private ownership, held by an estimated 738,000 owners. Sustainable management of these forests has significant economic, social, and ecological implications. The individual in this position will address these primary goals: 1) provide diverse forest resources programing to private (non-industrial) forest landowners, natural resource professionals (foresters, wildlife biologists, and timber harvesters), youth, and educators, 2) assist forest landowners and natural resource professionals in gaining knowledge, making decisions, and acquiring skills to manage forest resources so they can remain as working forests providing benefits into the future, and 3) encourage private landowners to obtain professional forestry assistance to help them manage their forestlands for long term health (e.g. invasive pests) and productivity (e.g. timber harvesting). The expected outcomes of this work will include increased: acres of sustainably managed forestlands, use of BMPs for site and water quality protection, forestland owners following written management plans, trained loggers, and natural resources professionals obtaining certification (e.g. Society of American Foresters and Pesticide Applicator). Other critical outcomes include higher employment in the forest sector, better trained forestry professionals, better science based management of private forest lands, and citizens that are more aware of the importance of forests and their sustainability. The counties of District 3 are also some of the most active counties in the Marcellus shale gas play. Having the skills to deal with the increasing exploration and development of shale gas infrastructure in forested areas, while maintaining the health and productivity of the forest, is becoming more and more important for professional land managers and woodland owners alike. The professional forestry educator in this position will interact with woodland owners associations, industrial forest managers, and agency and natural gas company personnel to help minimize the impacts of natural gas exploration and development on forest and water resources. Successful candidate will be responsible for developing and leading educational programs for area landowners, loggers, industry representatives, government officials, and youth in the following areas: forest stewardship and sustainability, timber stand improvement, ecological services, forest regeneration, forests and wildlife management, forest management and shale gas exploration/development, deer management, business and marketing.
planning, chainsaw safety, logger training, and agroforestry. State Extension Team members work closely with university based research faculty in developing and conducting applied research that is relevant to state-wide clientele needs. The individual must work effectively in a team and with the diverse populations and audiences within their District. The successful candidate will be encouraged to develop and/or participate in interdisciplinary collaborations across multiple Extension state teams and outside institutions. While the successful candidate will be stationed in Extension District 3 (McKean, Potter, Cameron, Elk, and Jefferson Counties), he or she will be part of a state team and thus expected to participate and deliver programs across the state. This job will be filled as a level 3, level 4, or level 5 depending upon the successful candidate's competencies, education, and experience. This position requires a Master’s degree or higher plus three to five years of related experience, or an equivalent combination of education and experience for a level 3. Preference will be given to candidates with degree(s) in Forest Resources Management, Forest Ecosystem Management, Economics, Silviculture, or other related disciplines, and to those that have related work experience in natural resources education or industry. Candidates should have a basic knowledge of and commitment to sustainable forestry, wildlife management, silviculture, insect and disease management, invasive plant control, and enjoy the challenge of working as part of a team on a wide variety of educational efforts. A demonstrated ability to relate to a diverse population of faculty, staff, and students is desirable. Excellent verbal and written communications skills required in English and valued in Spanish. Candidates must possess teaching skills, and interpersonal skills, ability to build effective working relationships with colleagues and clientele, and able to work as a member of a team. The candidate must be organized and able to manage multiple projects simultaneously.