

# Springfield Water and Sewer Commission

## Job Description

### **FOREST ECOLOGIST**

Springfield Water and Sewer is seeking a Forest Ecologist to join its watershed protection and maintenance team in Westfield, MA, and surrounding areas. The Forest Ecologist is responsible for researching, protecting, and maintaining the Commission's water supply forest lands. The Forest Ecologist works on a wide range of tasks including collection and study of scientific data related to the management of forestry stewardship plans and related programs. The position requires on-the-ground management and monitoring of approximately 18,000 acres of Commission water supply property within eight municipalities: Westfield, Russell, Granville, Tolland, Blandford, Otis, Ludlow, and Belchertown. The Forest Ecologist reports to the Water Resources Manager.

To apply, please send a letter of interest and resume to [admin.mgr@waterandsewer.org](mailto:admin.mgr@waterandsewer.org).

Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2023.

Starting salary is \$55,000-\$60,000 based upon experience.

This is a full time (40 hours/week) position.

Duties include but are not limited to:

#### **Land Management**

- Assists with the implementation of forest resource and watershed management activities, including silvicultural programs for the selection and removal of trees to enhance the forest to ensure optimum water quality.

#### **Regulatory Compliance**

- Assists with the monitoring of and compliance with timber harvesting permits and all applicable state and federal laws

#### **Program Administration**

- Carries out activities needed to achieve management goals, including but not limited to parcel monitoring, road maintenance, ecological surveys (including invasive plants), property boundary markings and maintenance, addressing ATV and other land abuse, wetland protection, signage and trash and debris clean-up.

A complete job description is available upon request.

The Forest Ecologist must be able to traverse the Commission's land including forests and wetlands. This will involve walking over uneven terrain and wet/muddy terrain. In addition, the Forest Ecologist must be able to operate equipment which includes the ability to lift, twist, and climb.

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

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#### Education and experience

- A Bachelor of Science Degree in Forestry, Forest Resource Management, Forest Ecology, Environmental Science or related Bachelor of Science degree.
- Experience using geographic information systems and working knowledge of global positioning system tools

#### Knowledge, abilities, and skills include but are not limited to the following:

- Knowledge of the terminology and standard abbreviations used in connection with forest resource management and watershed management.
- Knowledge and ability to operate a chainsaw and hand tools safely.
- Knowledge of the principles and techniques of forest resource management, watershed management and silviculture.
- Knowledge of the principles, theories and practices of watershed management, source water protection, natural resource management, including wetlands, wildlife, forestry, and ecology.
- Ability to identify vegetation especially woody trees and shrubs including native and non-native invasive vegetation.
- Knowledge of the types, uses, and operation of equipment and tools used in forest management in New England.
- Ability to read, understand, interpret, apply, and explain technical literature and the laws, rules, regulations, policies, and procedures relating to land and forest management on drinking supply watersheds in Massachusetts.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team. Ability to establish and maintain a positive attitude and work ethic with a group office dynamic.
- Organizational and time management skills to properly prioritize work assignments and projects.
- Ability to speak and write clearly and to communicate effectively with staff and the public.

Must possess and maintain a valid Driver's License.