

CAIRNGORMS PEATLAND ACTION PROJECT OFFICER

(Fixed term for 3 year, 37.5 hours/week, Band D)

Position available immediately

Purpose

The post holder will work as part of the Land Management team in the CNPA to develop and implement peatland restoration projects within the Cairngorms National Park. A key focus of their work is the design and management of restoration projects, and managing contractors. They will work closely with the three other CNPA peatland staff and the wider Scottish Peatland ACTION team.

The post holder will work with colleagues, contractors and land managers across the National Park to identify projects which improve the peatland resource, lock up carbon and improve peatland habitats. They will engage with land managers to seek their involvement in the programme and will ensure that practical solutions are costed and specified on a site by site basis, using specialist contractors. Applications for funding for practical works will be made to the CNPA Peatland Grant Scheme. Where funding applications are successful, contracts for implementation of capital works will be drawn up and managed.

Responsibilities

- Develop the necessary partnerships and engagement with landowners, to raise awareness of the project, negotiate access for peatland surveys and agree the scope of potential capital works and long term management to improve the quality and extent of the peat resource and its associated habitats
- Develop peatland restoration project plans with costed work programmes, including site surveys and potentially UAV surveys
- Develop funding bids for the CNPA Peatland Grant Scheme or other funding options for short term capital and longer term peatland management
- Develop and manage contracts for survey works and peatland restoration capital works including the supervision of specialist contractors.
- Assist with grant assessment, grant claims and grant reporting.
- Provide expert advice on peatland management to the CNPA, the land management and conservation community.
- Monitor project delivery, setting milestones and producing regular reports to CNPA Peatland Panel and NatureScot which will include estimates of peatland habitat improved, restored or positively managed as part of this project.

- Attend Peatland ACTION Team meetings and other peatland events
- Assist in running demonstration and training events, open days, and awareness raising activities to raise awareness of the value of our peatland resource as part of the broader climate change agenda.
- Follow CNPA and Peatland ACTION health & safety procedures, lone working protocol and meet the requirements of Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015.
- Undertake any other duties appropriate to the grade as required and contribute to the delivery of the work of the Directorate and CNPA as a whole.

Person Specification - Knowledge, experience and training

ESSENTIAL

- Practical experience of producing plans, specifications and costs for peatland and/or habitat restoration schemes
- Experience of managing machinery contractors and working with CDM 2015 Regulations
- Experience of developing and maintaining positive working relationships with land managers, agencies, organisations, contractors and suppliers to deliver land management projects
- Proven experience of land management/conservation project management and successful delivery
- Proven ability to achieve targets, manage workloads and projects to set deadlines and delivering projects to budget
- Good knowledge of upland management and land use
- Articulate with excellent communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills
- Highly organised and possessing good time-management skills
- Computer and IT literate, including use of GIS and ESRI's ArcMap
- A full UK driving licence
- Flexible approach to working hours as evening and weekend working will be occasionally required
- Ability to work in remote locations and navigate across challenging upland terrain in all weathers

DESIRABLE

- Direct experience of peatland survey, management and restoration techniques;
- Botanical expertise at the NVC survey level
- Experience in procuring and in interrogating land use information associated with GIS and other information systems.
- Experience in successfully applying for funding from grant awarding bodies
- Licensed UAV pilot.
- A degree, or equivalent in a land management/ environmental management/ agriculture/ forestry/ nature conservation discipline
- Proven track record of meeting challenges and overcoming conflict.
- Knowledge and experience of carbon accounting and funding

- Experience of working within a small team
- Working knowledge of one or more of the following themes: upland farming, management of wild deer, woodland and forestry, natural flood management, habitat restoration and/or moorland management for sporting interests
- Corporate Membership of an appropriate professional body.

(Job description April 2021/22)