

Regional Watershed Forestry Specialist, Central Region

*Location: **Central PA***

This is a limited-term, full-time positions for two years, with a good chance of extension/renewal beyond initial term, offering a competitive salary and excellent fringe benefits package. Please send a resume and cover letter to: wpcjobs@paconserve.org and list Regional Forestry (Central Region) in the subject line. The position will require extensive, regular travel throughout the assigned Central region, so candidates should live in/near that region, or be willing to travel to and throughout the Central region regularly.

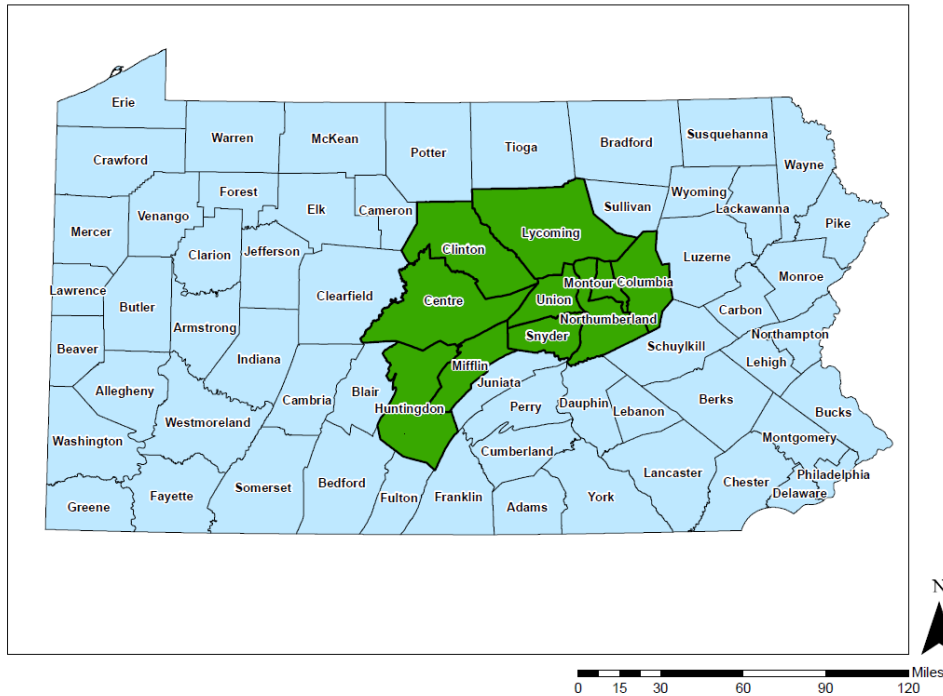
The Central region includes the following counties: Clinton, Lycoming, Centre, Huntingdon, Mifflin, Union, Montour, Columbia, Northumberland, and Snyder. Please see included map highlighting the specific Central region in green.

Western PA Conservancy's Watershed Conservation Program, in cooperation with the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Bureau of Forestry, seeks a highly motivated, driven, and well-organized individual to help promote and coordinate riparian forest buffer and lawn conversion implementation efforts in Central Pennsylvania as a part of a larger team working statewide.

The ideal candidates will have excellent interpersonal and communication skills, exhibit outstanding planning skills, the ability to juggle multiple projects at once, and will demonstrate success with following-up in a prompt manner with landowners and partners. Experience with working with cross-sector partnerships and maintaining great working relationships with a variety of stakeholders is a plus. Knowledge of PA's natural resource concerns, water quality best management practices (including riparian forest buffers, afforestation/forest planting, and conservation landscaping/native meadow establishment), and tree/plant ID skills are preferred. The position supports Pennsylvania's renewed focus on increasing watershed forestry practices throughout the Commonwealth. Ability to lead productive working groups is a must. A four-year degree in natural resources, or a related degree, or equivalent experience is required. Must be willing to travel frequently throughout Central region for site visits, and through the entire Commonwealth for meetings/conferences on a regular basis. While the position involves a high level of in-office work, the selected candidate must also be willing to work outside in occasionally adverse conditions to plant and maintain tree seedlings and meadows, etc. If you're a people-person interested in a fast-paced career in the environmental realm through which you can make a visible, on-the-ground impact, this might be the job for you!

The purpose of these positions is to further the state and federal watershed forestry-related goals set for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Chesapeake Bay. Efforts will focus on increasing landowner participation in watershed forestry programs. The position will result in the implementation of new acres of lawn-to-forest planting, riparian forest buffer planting, and lawn-to-meadow planting, all of which help improve ecological function and water quality within the Chesapeake Bay and throughout PA.

Central - DCNR Watershed Specialist Region



Job Duties:

- Promote and outreach watershed forestry best management practices to PA landowners and stakeholders.
- Respond to landowner requests for technical assistance and assist landowners in finding appropriate funding sources for implementation projects on their properties.
- Support long-term maintenance of new and existing watershed forestry practices.
- Coordinate working groups of stakeholders on specific issues connected to watershed forestry practices.
- Track and report implementation of watershed forestry practices.
- Conduct workshops/trainings for partners, stakeholders, and landowners.
- Provide staff support for the Riparian Forest Buffer Advisory Committee and Lawn Conversion Advisory Committee, and associated Leadership Teams and Action Teams, etc.
- Assist with planning and hosting the annual Watershed Forestry Summit (formerly Riparian Forest Buffer Summit).
- Assist with grant management, as well as grant application reviews.
- Develop planting plans for riparian forest buffers and lawn conversion projects.
- Develop and maintain regional collaborations/partnerships.
- Assist regional partners in increasing capacity to handle watershed forestry projects.
- Develop and host regional trainings for landowners, partners, and stakeholders on watershed forestry practices, planning, planting, and maintenance.
- Participating in regional partner projects and initiatives.
- Administrative responsibilities associated with the duties outlined above.

Absolute Requirements:

- The positions will be based in DCNR Bureau of Forestry offices in Harrisburg, PA--with remote working options available with a PA residence.
- Bachelor's degree in a natural resource-related/environmental field; OR a related degree and equivalent experience.

- Well-developed organizational skills- must be able to handle multiple tasks, simultaneous projects and priorities, keep track of many appointments and deadlines, etc.
- Excellent work ethic, drive, and motivation to succeed as an individual and as a team-player.
- Ability to work successfully with people at all organizational levels and from all backgrounds.
- Verbal and written communication skills- ability to effectively meet with, speak with, educate, and present to a wide variety of audiences and individuals.
- Ability to manage data/spreadsheets, develop documents, utilize virtual meeting software, etc.
- Public presentation experience.
- Knowledge of watershed forestry best management practices.
- Working knowledge of PA native trees and plants.
- Must be flexible with schedule; willing to work occasional evenings and weekends.
- Ability to perform physical work, carry heavy equipment, and navigate uneven terrain.
- Valid driver's license and be willing/able to travel to various locations throughout the Commonwealth on a regular basis.
- Ability to utilize Geographic Information System (GIS) software applications.

Physical Requirements:

- Ability to work outside in occasionally adverse conditions to plant and maintain tree seedlings and meadows.
- Ability to traverse difficult/uneven terrain.
- Ability to transition between office work and field work.
- Ability to sit, bend, and stand for 8+ hours a day.
- Ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences.
- Ability to legally operate a motor vehicle within Pennsylvania; valid driver's license, willing to travel extensively throughout assigned region and throughout the commonwealth.

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience working in the natural resources field.
- Proven track-record of building good working relationships with landowners and partner organizations.
- Experience working with agricultural landowners and communities.
- Knowledge of riparian forest buffer and lawn conversion planning, implementation, and maintenance techniques.
- Experience developing planting plans for watershed forestry practices.
- Experience organizing events, such as plantings or maintenance days, or partner meetings.
- Experience coordinating with multiple partners on projects.

Location: This position is headquartered in Harrisburg, PA but will work remotely from a PA residence within/near the previously described Central PA region, and travel extensively throughout that region.

Position Duration: This is a full-time position with benefits for a limited 2-year initial term, with a good chance of extension/renewal.

Pay: The starting salary will be \$54,181, with a comprehensive benefits package.