

Job Announcement

Hudson River Habitat Restoration Biologist

Position Summary: Provide project support, review and oversight services to NYS DEC for habitat restoration projects spanning 100 miles of the Hudson River estuary.

Position Details: The habitat restoration biologist will support NYS DEC Regional Marine Habitat Protection Program and Hudson River Estuary Program staff in the review and oversight of all aspects of planning, design, construction, implementation, and monitoring of brackish marsh restoration, green infrastructure development, side channel restoration, oyster restoration, and other habitat enhancement projects on the Hudson River estuary.

Key responsibilities will include:

- Review and comment on feasibility, design, monitoring, and public outreach documents, including, but not limited to: plans, feasibility studies, data products, GIS databases, construction drawings, monitoring protocols, planting schedules, interim reports, and final reports;
- Make field visits to restoration and reference sites and collect field data during all project phases, including feasibility assessment, site baseline characterization, design, construction, and post-construction monitoring;
- Develop written assessments, field reports, literature reviews, meeting summaries, and other documents;
- Attend and provide support for meetings related to habitat restoration projects, and represent NYS DEC at public meetings and events related to mitigation projects;
- Maintain liaison with other NYS and federal agency partners, knowledgeable scientific advisors, and stakeholders to facilitate awareness of and concurrence with project design, construction and monitoring approach;
- Promote use of best practices according to the Society for Ecological Restoration in the implementation of mitigation projects; and
- Support other habitat restoration, enhancement, and management initiatives.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in relevant environmental science
- 5+ years of experience in aquatic habitat restoration, ecological management, fisheries biology, wetlands ecology, or other relevant environmental field
- Willingness to work occasional irregular hours, including some evenings
- Ability to swim, paddle canoe up to two miles, lift up to 50 pounds, and hike up to three miles over irregular and wet terrain, and willingness to work in adverse field and weather conditions
- Valid driver's license
- Strong Microsoft Office Suite skills (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, including public speaking
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work with team members, agency staff, advisors, and stakeholders

Preferred Skills/Experience:

- MS in habitat restoration, biology, ecology, fisheries, marine science or similar field
- Recent work experience in the Hudson River estuary
- Wetlands assessment, delineation, or restoration experience
- Tidal wetlands, oyster restoration, and/or aquatic habitat restoration experience
- Knowledge of aquatic species habitat requirements
- Boat operation experience and skill
- Project management experience
- Environmental compliance monitoring experience
- Construction observation experience
- Proficiency with ArcGIS

Project Funding and Duration: This position is funded through the Natural Heritage Trust (NHT)* and the selected candidate will be an employee of the NHT with work conducted under the supervision of DEC. There is currently a three-year funding commitment; this may be increased for a longer duration or shortened based on program needs and availability of funds.

To Apply: Please email a letter of interest, resume, and names and contact information for three professional references to hrnerr@gw.dec.state.ny.us by April 22, 2014. Please insert the words "Restoration Biologist" in the subject line.

*The Natural Heritage Trust (NHT) is a New York State public benefit corporation. Established in 1968, the Trust's mission is to receive and administer gifts, grants, and contributions to further public programs for parks, recreation, conservation, waterfront revitalization, and historic preservation purposes of the State of New York. The NHT is governed by a four-member board comprised of the Commissioner of State Parks, the Chair of the State Council of Parks, the Commissioner of Environmental Conservation and the Secretary of State. The NHT is an equal opportunity employer