

December 13, 2011

River Protection Steward
JOB ANNOUNCEMENT
Application Deadline: January 15, 2012

Although it historically has been a vital, clean source of water to the Mississippi River, portions of the St. Croix River basin recently have been found impaired for phosphorous and other pollutants. Rare landscapes and plant and animal communities are threatened by development pressures emanating from the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Multi-jurisdictional conservation efforts are complex and lack focus specific to the St. Croix basin. While it was among the very first rivers to achieve federal “Wild and Scenic” designation, protections apply to only a thin corridor of land along a portion of the main stem and are woefully inadequate to protect the water quality and ecological integrity of the watershed.

Summary of Position

This position will focus on the SCRA core function: *Improving water quality, recognizing its interconnection with land use*. The SCRA River Protection Steward will work in the entire St. Croix River Watershed. The St. Croix River watershed comprises 7,760 square miles, and encompasses 10 counties in Minnesota and 9 in Wisconsin, with the river itself forming the border between the two states for much of its length. This position will office in St. Croix Falls, WI. Extensive travel within the watershed is expected, and may include work in the field.

SCRA has laid crucial groundwork for better coordinating and targeting public and private conservation work in the basin — and we are poised to take the next step on this strategy through smarter water quality protection practices in the St. Croix basin. The person hired for this position will work with a wide diversity of partners to:

- Develop a new basin wide framework to ensure that state agencies, local government programs and others focus on geographic areas and specific on-the-ground actions that will do the most for St. Croix water quality; and
- Shape forest conservation and management in the northern basin to achieve improved water quality benefits.

And more generally:

- Advocate and build strategies for the management, protection, and restoration of the St. Croix River ecosystem and protect water quality.
- Represent the SCRA at meetings, and other public events.
- Manage grants and projects, and prepare grant reports.
- Leverage the unique resources of the SCRA and build relationships with strategic partners, stakeholders, businesses, schools, civic groups, and local and state decision-makers.

Required Knowledge and Skills

- Demonstrated ability to effectively manage complex projects with multiple stakeholders.
- Effective oral and written communication with a wide range of clients including local public officials and community members.
- Demonstrated writing ability, with experience in both technical and non-technical formats.
- Demonstrated ability to exercise good judgment and deal effectively with questions and problems.
- Knowledge and experience with forest stewardship and natural resources planning and management, preferably in both Minnesota and Wisconsin.
- Comfortable interacting with landowners that may be the target of restoration efforts, and understand the opportunities for landowners for restoration and protection through government programs and other agencies and organizations.
- Ability to perform accurate record-keeping and reporting practices.
- Ability to travel to meetings at various locations within the St. Croix basin.
- Valid driver's license and access to private vehicle or equivalent means of transportation.
- Strong communication and outreach skills.
- Ability to independently manage time and resources in pursuit of outcomes.
- Bachelor's degree plus two years of experience in natural resource related field minimum, or the equivalent combination of education and experience in related field may be substituted.
- Proficient in the use of Microsoft applications including Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

Preferred Knowledge and Skills

- Experience leading collaborative processes; proven ability to work with diverse groups.
- Meeting facilitation skills.
- Solid understanding of GIS systems and data bases.
- Experience in successfully securing and managing grant funds.

Hours and Compensation

This is a full time, salaried position, with non-traditional hours that may include some night and weekend work. Compensation for the River Protection Steward position includes a competitive base salary, in the \$35-50K range, commensurate with experience.

Please email your resume with salary history, expression of interest, three professional references, and any additional information you'd like to include to:

debryun@scramail.com

Questions?

Deb Ryun, Executive Director

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The SCRA is an Equal Opportunity Employer