Job Description for Georgia Sea Grant State Fellowship with Springfield Legacy Foundation

About Springfield Legacy Foundation

The Springfield Legacy Foundation (SLF) strengthens people’s connection with Georgia’s coastal land through wise use and conservation of environmental, cultural, and historic resources in the Sunbury community in Liberty County, GA. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit partnership of four environmental, cultural, and historic institutions including Georgia Sea Grant, the University of Georgia School of Forestry and Natural Resources, Seabrook Village Foundation, and the Archaeology Institute of the University of West Florida, SLF seeks to demonstrate humanity’s interrelationship with the landscape while protecting important resources in the North Newport and Medway River basins of coastal Georgia. The radical design of the Foundation enables the land, essentially, to own itself. It will be shared with the public through responsible and innovative use guided by the complementary stewards on its diverse board of directors.

Position Summary

The Georgia Sea Grant State Fellow will support SLF’s development and conservation goals by through the development of a long-term Climate and Sea Level Rise adaption plan for managing the cultural and natural resources on all land owned or projected to be owned by the Foundation. This includes approximately 9,400 acres comprised primarily of sustainably-managed working forests, special natural areas (e.g., oak hammocks and maritime forest), and coastal marshes. Working with existing SLF staff and data resources, and with the assistance of Georgia Sea Grant resilience Specialists, the Warnell School of Forest Resources, and other stakeholders, this fellow will complete one of the first sea level rise adaption plans developed for coastal working forests. Position duties include:

- Support the establishment of processes to guide the development and creation of a long-term adaption plan; identify and refine a framework for identification, inventory, collection, and curation of all data required for the successful creation and implementation of the adaptation plan.
- Work with partners, stakeholders, and external resources to analyze management alternatives and recommend the most appropriate plan for long-term management of the natural and cultural resources onsite.
- Analyze the plan’s opportunities and challenges in context with local, regional, national, and global land and resource management.
• Where additional data is needed, work to acquire it or develop plans for collection of needed data resources.
• Develop a draft plan to be circulated and reviewed by stakeholders.
• Translate plan and recommendations into clear, concise, and compelling internal communication products suitable for use by SLF leadership to shape management, research strategies, and long-term resilience planning.
• Translate plan and recommendations into clear, concise, and compelling external communication products suitable for active and passive on- and off-site engagement through visitor education, leveraged partnerships with relevant NGOs and governmental entities, conversion and professional development of other coastal forestland owners and natural resource managers, and education of local, regional, state, and federal political decision-makers and their constituents.
• Assist SLF leadership and staff on other opportunities for engagement, contribution of ideas, and professional growth as requested.
• Analyze, define, and test the potential transferability and adaptability of the plan to other coastal working forestland.

Performance Expectations

The Fellow is expected to contribute to the enhanced awareness and positive impressions of the work of the SLF and the Georgia Sea Grant Program by adhering to the standards of both programs and demonstrating competence and productivity to achieve positive results. The Fellow should engage SLF staff, affiliates, and partners to understand constraints and develop innovative, feasible approaches to developing a long-term Sea Level Rise and Climate Adaptation Plan. A successful applicant will demonstrate:

• The ability to work independently and in collaboration to advance projects with attention to quality, completeness, and detail.
• A strong work ethic and commitment to deadlines.
• Initiative, assertive acceptance of personal responsibility, collegiality, and commitment to teamwork.
• Adherence to the highest ethical standards for professional conduct.
• Skills in proactively making strategic connections and communicating efficiently and effectively to gather, synthesize, apply, and convey information.

Position requirements

• Demonstrated experience in strategic planning, the field of resilience, and natural resource management preferred.
• Excellent oral and written communications skills and the ability to synthesize and communicate technical and complex information to both technical and non-technical audiences.
• Highly organized and able to juggle multiple demands in dynamic and multi-faceted organizations.
• Proficiency in computer productivity programs and applications (e.g. word-processing, spreadsheets, collaborative cloud workflows, etc.). Working knowledge of GIS, statistical modeling, and decision-analysis preferred.
• Ability and willingness to travel locally. Valid Georgia driver's license and personal vehicle needed.
• Ability and willingness to utilize a personal computer and phone for fellowship assignments is desirable but not essential.
• Positive attitude with a desire to learn and contribute tangibly to advancing initiatives of SLF.

Status, Pay & Benefits

The successful candidate will be hired as a full-time fellow for 40 hours per week with a September 2022 start date. The expected fellowship term is 12 months from the start date. The fellow will be assigned a desk and network access at SLF. The Fellow will receive a $35,000 stipend distributed in monthly payment. Housing arrangements and expenses will be the responsibility of the Fellow. The SLF does offer subsidized on-site housing if desired.