



March 13, 2024

State Forest Director Job Advertisement

POSITION:

State Forest Director

REPORTS TO:

Executive Director

THE OPPORTUNITY:

IFA seeks a staff person to direct the organization's programs to protect the ecological and recreational values of Indiana's state forests and other state public lands and conserve and restore forests on private lands throughout Indiana.

The Indiana Forest Alliance (IFA), founded in 1996, is a non-profit, statewide organization dedicated to the long-term health and well-being of Indiana's native forests. We are volunteers and staff working to protect and restore Indiana's forests. IFA serves citizens, organizations, landowners, and communities with a wide range of interests in Indiana's forests. We provide accurate information to the people of Indiana to involve them in efforts to protect Indiana's forests and ensure their opportunities for input into decision-making that affects forests. We speak for the native animals, plants, and other creatures who depend on Indiana's forests and cannot speak for themselves.

THE ROLE:

The State Forest Director plays a pivotal role in developing and articulating the positions, initiatives and strategies of IFA that address management of Indiana's state forests, parks, fish and wildlife area and other state public lands to conserve their biological, ecological, and public recreational values. The State Forest Director also addresses the restoration and protection of Indiana's broader forest ecosystem by addressing projects that can have destructive impacts on private forests and encouraging the sustainable use of privately-owned forests which comprise 85% of Indiana's woodlands. This person is detail-oriented, adaptable, responds quickly to deadlines and is a team player. This person supports the mission of IFA through all facets of their work and upholds the mission and vision through all communications.

RESPONSIBILITIES, DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS:

- A. Directs IFA's Wild Indiana program.
 - a. Spearheads IFA's work in the state forests and conducts outreach to create a network of support for that work.
 - b. Directs IFA's research and analysis related to the ecological and economic impacts of logging and other harmful human activities in Indiana's forests as well as alternative management approaches that prioritize the recreational, ecological and



climate mitigation values of forests, particularly in state forests and other forests that are publicly owned.

- c. Disseminates information on logging, prescribed burning and other management activities on state public lands regularly to IFA's membership and the public. Drafts written comments on logging plans in state forests and works with IFA's Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs to facilitate public comments on logging plans.
 - d. Advocates for the establishment of Wild Areas, High Value Conservation Areas, and other areas in the state forests to be set aside from logging and other management that degrades their natural condition and value for dispersed recreation.
 - e. Recruits people to be stewards of state forests, High Value Conservation Areas, IFA's proposed Wild Areas, and other forests and builds IFA membership around forest protection issues.
 - f. Develops and assists inventories and surveys of flora and fauna in the state forests and assists such surveys by IFA in other forests.
- B. Conceives and spearheads IFA advocacy for sustainable management of private forests and programs that maintain and expand Indiana's forest base and against public works projects and developments that reduce Indiana's forest base.
- C. Promotes the sequestration of carbon in the management of state forests and other state public lands and private forests. Develops IFA's carbon program:
- a. Researches potential for carbon markets to provide revenue for forest landowners.
 - b. Assists in the development of carbon markets that encourage the conservation and expansion of forests and restoration of mature and old growth forests in Indiana.
 - c. Develops carbon facts and figures for consistent use in all IFA programs.
 - d. Engages state, regional, and national organizations in collaborative initiatives.
- D. Works with IFA's other policy staff to build and utilize the IFA Conservation Committee to engage board members, experts, and volunteers in IFA's work, develop IFA's positions and strategies on forest issues and get feedback on strategies and outreach materials.
- E. As time permits, works with IFA's staff and leaders to develop a plan to establish a trail traversing Indiana from north to south utilizing riparian corridors and existing



trails and greenways and acquiring additional public land and right of ways, private land easements, and urban forests.

- F. Assists IFA's development and fundraising:
- a. Works with the Development Director to advise and assist fundraising appeals and ensure the accuracy of those appeals to raise funds for the State Forest Director's work.
 - b. Assists the Executive Director and Development Director in raising funds from personal solicitations to support the State Forest Director's work.
 - c. Assists in writing, editing, and submitting grants to support IFA's work addressing state and private forests.

EDUCATION, SKILLS & QUALITIES:

Bachelor's degree in English, communications, humanities, ecology, biology, or other natural sciences, public policy or business required. Post undergraduate degree is a plus. At least 3-4 years of work experience required. The staff person will have demonstrated, effective experience in conveying messages and ideas to the public, an understanding of how advocacy-oriented non-profits operate and decision-making occurs by governments and businesses. This person will be knowledgeable in ecological studies, fact-finding and building presentations for the public and local law-makers.

WORK ENVIRONMENT, REQUIREMENTS, COMPENSATION & BENEFITS:

IFA offices are located in the English Foundation building at 615 N. Alabama in downtown Indianapolis. This position is a hybrid position that allows the State Forest Director to work at home, in the field or at the IFA office depending upon the activities some of which, such as meetings with other staff may require this person to work in the office. The State Forest Director will also be required to visit and work in state forests and attend public events, including media events, regulatory hearings, meetings, committee hearings and sessions of the Indiana Legislature, etc.

This is a full-time, salaried position. IFA offers a generous paid time off policy and a stipend to assist in covering independent healthcare.

Applicants for the State Forest Director position should email a cover letter and resume to Melody Dunn, IFA Office Manager, at: melody@indianaforestalliance.org. Applications will be accepted through April 3, 2024.

