



## **Wild Virginia Habitat Connectivity Director**

Wild Virginia works through advocacy, influence, and education to protect and connect Virginia's wild places. The organization consists of two major programs - water quality and habitat connectivity. Additionally, it works to connect people to the outdoors, because people protect the places they know and care about. Wild Virginia is a statewide advocacy non-profit, headquartered in Charlottesville, VA, with a decentralized staff that works remotely across the state. Staff travel occasionally as needed (i.e. Wild Virginia events, conferences), but not frequently.

### **Job Summary**

The Habitat Connectivity Director (Director) will be responsible for protecting and improving the connection of terrestrial and aquatic habitat in Virginia through advocacy, influence, and education.

The Director acts as an expert and leader on habitat connectivity in Virginia, a collaborator and convener of multi-stakeholder groups, and empowers communities and individuals. The Director works closely with policy makers, regulators, community members, and specialty groups of a variety of interests and backgrounds, requiring strong interpersonal skills. The ideal candidate will be comfortable adapting to changing circumstances as needed to meet program goals. Candidates must be entrepreneurial, flexible, creative, willing to think outside the box, and have strong leadership, collaboration, and listening skills.

The Director will report to the Executive Director and work closely with other staff. Some evening and weekend work is expected. The chosen candidate will reside within the Commonwealth of Virginia or be expected to relocate to Virginia within one month of accepting the position. Equipment necessary to complete work, such as IT equipment, is provided by Wild Virginia.

### **Essential Duties / Responsibilities**

#### **Habitat Connectivity Program (75%)**

- Provide leadership, vision, and strategy for the Habitat Connectivity Program (the program).
- Coordinate, implement, monitor, and evaluate progress toward the program's goals, objectives, and outputs.
- Convey the program's vision through a written and spoken narrative that engages the community, stakeholders, donors, and grant-makers.
- Serve as a spokesperson for the program with members, partner organizations, legislators, the general public, and media.
- Manage interns and contractors who provide support for the program.

- Coordinate efforts to submit briefing book policy goals for habitat connectivity in the Virginia Conservation Network *Our Common Agenda* briefing book each year.
- Collaborate closely with organizational partners such as the Wildlands Network.
- Co-lead and provide support for the Virginia Safe Wildlife Corridors Collaborative (VSWCC).
- Present at external meetings, conferences, and events (in-person and virtual) to advance the program's goals.
- Synchronize efforts, share lessons learned, and network with neighboring states and regional efforts.

#### **Internal Coordination and Organizational Support (20%)**

- Participate in internal team meetings to assist with the advancement of outings and education; outreach and publicity; diversity, equity, and inclusion; and development goals outlined in the Wild Virginia's Implementation Plan.
- Identify opportunities to involve volunteers in Wild Virginia's programs.
- Present and/or host Wild Virginia webinars associated with habitat connectivity.
- Be active in the creation and review of Wild Virginia's plans, and maintain accurate records for reporting purposes and to ensure institutional memory.
- Collaborate with the Executive Director with regard to projects, priorities, and hours.
- Provide a progress report at each formal Board of Directors meeting.

#### **Other duties as assigned (5%)**

#### **Required Qualifications:**

- Experience in conservation, environmental science, wildlife preservation, forest protection, public lands and/or working with statewide and local government, policy makers, legislators, regulators, and communities.
- Ability to envision a strong conservation future for Virginia, and an understanding of strategies, policy changes, and public support required to reach that vision.
- Mission-driven team player with a positive attitude, strong work ethic, and the willingness to pitch in and support colleagues.
- Knowledge of the science of habitat connectivity, wildlife corridors, and wildlife crossings.
- Bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.).
- Flexibility, dependability, perseverance, and creativity in problem solving.
- Strong computer skills (including MS Office suite, Google Docs, and Zoom).
- Superior written and verbal communication skills.
- Ability to meet deadlines and manage multiple projects in a timely manner.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work autonomously.
- Valid Virginia driver's license or alternative travel accommodations and the ability to travel within Virginia.
- Acceptable background check.

#### **Desired Qualifications:**

- Experience with donors and grant makers, as well as drafting grant reports and contributing to grant proposals to highlight the importance and outcomes of the program.
- Master's degree (M.S., M.A., or similar professional degree) or higher, but not required with demonstrated experience.

- Experience with environmental advocacy work, conservation, and work in the nonprofit sector.
- Progressive community engagement experience, including organizing, directing, and supervising volunteers in a collaborative work environment.

Wild Virginia is committed to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment and is proud to be an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, genetics, disability, age, or veteran status. Applicants who meet at least 75% of the description above are encouraged to apply.

**Location:** Wild Virginia is headquartered in Charlottesville, VA. The position is remote with travel across Virginia occasionally required. The individual filling the position is expected to live within the state.

**Desired start date:** July 5, 2023 (Position open until filled.)

**Starting salary:** \$48,000 - \$53,000 year, depending on experience.

**Hours:** 40/week with occasional weekend and evening work required with advance notice.

**Benefits:** Paid vacation, Simple IRA, health insurance, travel reimbursement, professional development opportunities, family leave, voting leave, volunteer leave, flex time and remote work.

**Job type:** Full-time, “exempt” position. Wild Virginia is an equal opportunity employer.

**To apply:** Please complete [this form](#).