

February 2, 2011

**Prairie Rivers Network
Water Resources Specialist
Healthy Stream Flow and Habitat Protection Program**

Organization

Prairie Rivers Network is Illinois' statewide river conservation organization and an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Founded in 1967, the organization is headquartered in a dynamic University community just 45 minutes from a national scenic river and within 20 minutes of one of the state's finest small mouth bass streams. Prairie Rivers Network works to restore and protect Illinois' rivers for the benefit of people, fish, and wildlife.

For more on Prairie Rivers Network, visit our website: www.prairierivers.org.

Water Resources Specialist

Prairie Rivers Network seeks an energetic and outgoing individual to combine strong technical knowledge with outreach and communication skills to lead the organization's efforts to protect Illinois' rivers and streams from aquatic invasive species arriving from the Great Lakes. This is an 11-month, half-time position, consisting of approximately 20 hours a week. The Water Resources Specialist will report to the Executive Director. We are working with state, regional and national partners on a campaign to promote a permanent separation of the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. The 100+ year-old connection via the Chicago Area Waterways has allowed invaders to move between the two systems, causing considerable damage. The Asian carp that are threatening to reach Lake Michigan from the Mississippi River Basin are just the latest in a long list of real and potential threats, providing a high profile opportunity to raise awareness among the public and decision makers of the larger problem.

Desired qualifications include: understanding of and strong commitment to river restoration and conservation; ability to communicate technical issues to the layperson; ability to create and nurture partnerships critical to the success of the campaign; proven written and public speaking skills; good public relations skills; strong attention to detail; and a willingness to travel and work evenings and/or weekends. The candidate must be able to work independently to set and achieve goals.

Primary Responsibilities:

Co-lead an Illinois campaign to stop the flow of aquatic invasive species from the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River via Chicago Area Waterways

- Work with partner organizations to promote a permanent separation of the manmade connection between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins, leading the Illinois portion of the campaign along with Sierra Club and Environment Illinois.
- Develop and maintain expertise on related technical issues, and relationships with technical experts.
- Work with Friends of the Chicago River to reach out to and gain support of commercial and recreational users of the Chicago Area Waterways.
- Lead effort to organize support for permanent separation of the basins downstate.
- Keep pressure on state and federal agencies to work towards short- and long-term find solutions to prevent cross-basin spread of aquatic invaders.

- Work with partner organizations to win support of Chicago area residents and leaders for permanent separation of the basins.

Share successes and engage partners and the public

- Write/Update appropriate sections of Prairie Rivers Network website.
- Share our successes through website, press releases, LTEs, and newsletters.
- Work with other staff to develop opportunities for stakeholders and the general public to engage in the Asian carp issue and river protection in general.

Requirements and compensation:

Master's degree in environmental science or policy strongly desired and a minimum of 4 years of related experience. Must have a proven dedication to conservation and environmental protection. Independent, self-motivated, with a passion for protecting rivers is a must! Prairie Rivers Network offers an exciting, fulfilling, and challenging work environment. Salary for this half-time position will be \$18-21K dependent on experience and qualifications.

To apply: mail or email a cover letter, resume, and three references to:

Glynnis Collins, Executive Director
Prairie Rivers Network
1902 Fox Drive, Suite G
Champaign, IL 61820

gcollins@prairierivers.org

Closing date: Applications will be accepted until the position has been filled.

Prairie Rivers Network is an equal opportunity employer.