

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 promote riverside habitat protection and restoration along the state's 87,000 miles of rivers and streams, including the Illinois portion of the Mississippi River. This is an 18-month, half-time position, consisting of approximately 20 hours a week. The Water Resources Specialist will report to the Executive Director to lead the organization's efforts to promote habitat restoration and conservation throughout Illinois. This involves partnering with state and federal agencies to enhance existing restoration and agricultural conservation programs, and direct outreach with landowners, citizen groups, and public entities to encourage land uses and management practices that will improve habitat along our rivers.

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:

Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area

Lead effort to develop a framework for coordinating habitat conservation efforts within the Upper Mississippi River Conservation Opportunity Area (defined in the Illinois Fish and Wildlife Action Plan, an area along the Mississippi River stretching from the Wisconsin border in the north to Pere Marquette State Park):

- Develop a "Partnership Statement" for the Conservation Opportunity Area with local, state, and federal partners, including private parties and public agencies and groups.

- Through formal and informal outreach, obtain signatories to a Partnership Statement from diverse set of Conservation Opportunity Area stakeholders (i.e., representing different geographic areas, public and private representatives).
- Assist stakeholders in pursuit of funding for conservation projects identified as high priority in the Partnership Statement.

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 habitat conservation and river protection in general.

Requirements and compensation:

Master's degree in aquatic ecology, fisheries, stream restoration, restoration ecology, or related sciences 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/year 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.