

GIS Conservation Planner—Contract Position

The **Nova Scotia Nature Trust**, a conservation charity focused on protecting outstanding and unique natural areas through private land conservation, seeks an experienced conservation GIS expert to advance its conservation planning work by enhancing the use of spatial data and GIS in prioritizing its conservation work, and creating a series of ‘conservation blueprints’ for private land conservation in Nova Scotia.

The successful candidate will help advance the Nature Trust’s work by integrating best practices, data, science, and expert knowledge to develop a series of GIS-based conservation prioritizations to inform strategic planning around habitat conservation on privately-owned lands in Nova Scotia. The position entails acquiring, compiling and integrating environmental, ecological and property-related data, seeking input from experts and conservation partners, and developing and implementing GIS-based prioritization methodology and models to develop conservation prioritization “blueprints” to support the strategic, science-driven advancement of the Nature Trust’s conservation work.

We are seeking someone with academic training and extensive professional experience as a GIS analyst, specialist or consultant, and a strong background in conservation biology and/or protected areas planning. Our ideal candidate is a detail-oriented individual with strong organizational, project management and time management skills, who is able to work independently. At the same time the ideal candidate is able to build positive working relationships and communications with the experts, conservation partners and Nature Trust staff involved as advisors in this work.

Key Activities

- Review relevant data collection, and GIS conservation strategies and models completed or underway.
- Identify, acquire, compile, manage and/or integrate environmental and property-related spatial data sets and knowledge from partner organizations. Where necessary identify and fill data and knowledge gaps.
- Develop a replicable GIS-based private land conservation model, plan and priority map that can be used to assess, rank and make decisions related to specific private lands identified for potential conservation.
- Seek input from experts and conservation partners through workshops, and through ongoing communication. Liaise and cooperate with other conservation organizations and individuals regarding testing and refinement of methodologies and sharing of findings related to conservation planning.

Required Qualifications

- Degree, diploma or other GIS certification from a recognized institution specializing in Planning, Cartography, Geographic Information Systems, Surveying or Remote Sensing.
- Post secondary qualification in geography, planning or a related field.
- A minimum of 3-5 years’ experience developing, implementing and maintaining complex GIS solutions, and performing a wide diversity of GIS-related tasks.
- Proficiency using ArcGIS 10.x
- Experience in organizing, editing, managing and manipulating spatial data.
- Exceptional attention to detail and accuracy.
- Ability to communicate in a professional manner.
- An enthusiastic self-starter with the ability to take initiative, work independently and to meet deadlines.



Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in conservation, particularly land preservation and habitat/species conservation.
- Proven abilities to use GIS specifically in the land conservation/conservation science planning context
- Experience managing large, complex GIS projects
- Demonstrated experience collaborating with other parties to obtain data sources and to coordinate scientific peer review of products, modelling methodology etc.
- Experience using Python and Model Builder
- Cartographic design and layout

Remuneration/Term: Compensation will be commensurate with experience. The contract is to begin as soon as possible and will extend for 12 months (potentially more depending on funding)

Application Process:

Application deadline: Applications will be accepted until such time as the position is filled. Interviews will be ongoing.

To apply, please include the following in your application package:

1. Resume
2. Names of at least 3 professional or educational references. Indicate your relationship with the reference (i.e. previous employer, teacher etc., and how long he/she has known you, and contact information for the references).
3. Cover letter

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please send your completed application to:

Christina Nunn, Office Coordinator
Nova Scotia Nature Trust
PO Box 2202 Halifax, NS B3J 3C4
or fax 429-5263 or email nature@nsnt.ca

We thank all applicants, but only those who are selected for an interview will be contacted.

Thank you for your interest in working with the Nature Trust! We look forward to reviewing your application.