

## Field Ecologist

### Contractor Role Description and Application Procedures

The Nature Trust is recruiting experienced field ecologists to provide expert knowledge and support for our conservation programme, and to supplement our staff and volunteer teams. Contractors may apply in general, or for specific areas of expertise as outlined below.

Field work will include onsite inspections, ecological assessments and survey of potential and existing conservation lands. For the 2015 field season the Nature Trust needs contractors for a number of 2 to 4-day surveys at sites located across Nova Scotia.

#### Role Description (site surveys may include any of the following)

- Conducting biological surveys and ecological assessments of potential and existing Nature Trust conservation lands
- Identifying and mapping ecosystems, habitats and species on potential and protected conservation lands
- Identifying potential and existing threats, environmental liabilities and/or hazards on potential conservation lands
- Assisting with or completing Stewardship/Management Plans for conservation lands
- Assisting with or completing Baseline Documentation Reports for potential conservation lands
- Conducting annual property monitoring on NSNT conservation lands

#### Qualifications

- Masters of Science (MSc) or at least 5 years' relevant field experience
- Field botanists, lichenologists, ornithologists and general ecologists with expertise in species identification and characterization of ecological values in Nova Scotia

#### Expertise, Skills and Experience

- Knowledge of Nova Scotia's natural landscapes, ecosystems, habitats and species, including species at risk and invasive species
- Experience conducting ecological site assessments, including: the assessment of ecological values, development of habitat maps, collection of species inventories
- Experience conducting baseline survey and environmental site assessments including: environmental and safety liabilities and risks, threats to species or ecological values of a site, assessment of habitat integrity, identification of restoration potential
- Mapping, documenting (using GPS) and reporting in a clear and effective manner
- Experience working in the field (remote properties, challenging access, independent backcountry navigation using GPS)
- Canoe/kayak paddling and boating skills
- Excellent report-writing skills

#### Expertise and experience with respect to specific ecological values:

- Landbird species at risk (including Canada Warbler and Olive-sided Flycatcher) identification and habitat requirements
- Boreal felt lichen species identification
- Migratory shorebird and colonial seabird species identification and habitat characterization

- Identification of Atlantic Coastal Plain Flora species, habitat characterization and understanding of relevant ecological processes
- Identification of reptile species at risk, habitat and an understanding of related conservation science
- Site characterization of riparian zones and floodplain forests
- Site characterization of coastal forests and old growth hardwood forests

#### **Other Desired Assets**

- Working knowledge of GIS
- Good organizational skills
- Experience with ecological land classification
- Experience with wetland delineation
- Experience with invasive species management
- Knowledge of aquatic habitat values
- Understanding of marine/terrestrial interactions including climate change impacts, ecosystem services and shoreline conservation values
- Understanding of the relationship between soil and site edaphic factors

#### **Application Procedure**

Please indicate in your application for which areas you are available to work, your area of expertise, and your availability.

**Application deadline:** Applications are ongoing.

Please send a **cover letter, resume and list of at least 3 references**, and your daily rate, via email to: [employment@nsnt.ca](mailto:employment@nsnt.ca)

*Thank you so much for your interest in the Nature Trust and in doing contract work with us.*