

**(Job description 2020/21)**

## **CAIRNGORMS PEATLAND ACTION PROJECT OFFICER**

**(Fixed term for 1 year, 37.5 hours/week, Band D)**

### **Purpose**

The post holder will work as part of the Land Management team in the CNPA to develop and implement peatland restoration projects within the Cairngorms National Park. They will work closely with the other CNPA Project officers and the wider Peatland Action team.

The post holder will work with colleagues, contractors and land managers across the National Park to identify projects which improve the peatland resource, lock up carbon and improve associated habitats (blanket bog). They will engage with land managers to seek their involvement in the programme and will ensure that practical solutions are costed and specified on a site by site basis, using specialist contractors where required. Applications for funding for practical works will be made to the CNPA Peatland Grant Scheme. Where funding applications are successful, contracts for implementation of capital works will be drawn up and managed.

### **Responsibilities**

- Develop the necessary partnerships and engagement with landowners, to raise awareness of the project, negotiate access for peatland surveys and agree the scope of potential capital works and long term management to improve the quality and extent of the peat resource and its associated habitats
- Develop peatland project plans with costed work programmes, including site surveys and potentially UAV surveys
- Develop funding bids for the CNPA Peatland Grant Scheme or other funding options for short term capital and longer term peatland management
- Develop and manage implementation contracts for peatland capital works including the supervision of specialist contractors.
- Assist with grant assessment, grant claims and grant reporting.
- Provide expert advice on peatland management to the CNPA, the land management and conservation community.
- Monitor project delivery, setting milestones and producing regular reports to CNPA Peatland Panel and NatureScot which will include estimates of peat habitat improved, restored or positively managed as part of this project.

- Attend Peatland Action Team meetings and other peatland events
- Assist in running demonstration and training events, open days, and awareness raising activities to raise awareness of the value of our peatland resource as part of the broader climate change agenda.
- Undertake any other duties appropriate to the grade as required and contribute to the delivery of the work of the Directorate and CNPA as a whole.

## **Person Specification - Knowledge, experience and training**

### **ESSENTIAL**

- Experience of developing and maintaining positive working relationships with land managers, agencies, organisations, contractors and suppliers to deliver partnership initiatives
- Proven experience of project, budget and contract management
- Proven ability to achieve targets and manage workloads for self.
- Proven experience in successfully applying for funding from grant awarding bodies
- Practical experience of upland management and land use.
- Proven experience of producing plans, specifications and costs for peatland and/or habitat restoration schemes
- Articulate with excellent communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills
- A degree, or equivalent in a land management/ environmental management/ agriculture/ forestry/ nature conservation discipline
- Computer and IT literate, including use of ArcMap;
- Physically fit and able/willing to work outside in all weather conditions
- A full UK driving licence.
- Flexible approach to working hours as evening and weekend working will be occasionally required

### **DESIRABLE**

- Direct experience of peatland management and restoration techniques;
- Experience in procuring and in interrogating land use information associated with GIS and other information systems.
- Licensed UAV pilot.
- Botanical expertise at the NVC survey level
- Working knowledge of one or more of the following themes: upland farming, management of wild deer, woodland and forestry, natural flood management, habitat restoration and/or moorland management for sporting interests
- Corporate Membership of an appropriate professional body.