

Conservationist
Highstead Foundation
Redding, CT



About Highstead

Highstead is a regional non-profit conservation organization dedicated to working with regional partners and the best available science to conserve the New England landscape towards the Wildlands and Woodlands vision. Its principal programs include catalyzing the land protection activities through Regional Conservation Partnerships, conservation finance, ecological research, policy analysis, and land stewardship. Highstead employs eight staff members and supports many senior fellows and academic collaborators in advancing its goals. Founded in 1982 and located in the conservation landscape of Redding, CT, Highstead encompasses diverse natural areas, long-term studies on ecological dynamics, beautiful office and meeting facilities, and unique collections of trees and shrubs.

Position Overview

Highstead seeks a talented, creative individual who thrives in a collaborative environment and has training and professional experience in conservation science, economics, or natural resources management to fill the new position of Conservationist with a focus on conservation finance.

The Conservationist will bring exciting new capacity to our conservation science and finance programs. The Conservationist will work with the Senior Conservationist, other Highstead staff, Conservation Finance Network members, Wildlands and Woodlands Initiative partners, and other key stakeholders to help advance new approaches to funding and financing forest, farm, and water conservation in New England.

Responsibilities and Scope

The Conservationist will bring strong project management experience and a collaborative spirit to support Highstead staff and numerous non-governmental and public agency partners on initiatives that seek to advance the pace and practice of land conservation in the region. The Conservationist reports to and works closely with the Senior Conservationist, and will have responsibilities in the following areas:

Information Exchange

- Establish regular dialog with conservation stakeholders to understand local, regional, and national funding needs, trends, and opportunities.
- Facilitate information exchanges for conservation science and finance at either the state or regional level.
- Co-lead tracking, curation, and dissemination of public and private funding trends.

Innovation

- Assist in identifying and developing new pilot conservation finance projects through partners.
- Develop case statements and best practices for natural climate solutions and conservation finance strategies.
- Provide research to support conservation finance pilot projects through GIS, financial, or policy analyses.

Support

- Collaborate with Wildlands and Woodlands champions to translate regional science, finance, and policy into local contexts.
- Assist with editing and writing of conservation finance reports (e.g., Roundtable white paper, annual conservation finance, and protection trends reports, market feasibility, etc.)
- Represent Highstead in conservation finance-related networks (e.g., Sebago Clean Waters, Conservation Finance Network, etc.).

Desired Qualifications

Master's degree in a natural resources, business, or conservation-related field, and 2-3 years of relevant professional experience, and the following personal traits: superb communicator, self-motivated, creative, open-minded, comfort with ambiguity, and committed to solving problems. Additional consideration will be given to candidates with economic, GIS, or policy expertise.

Terms and Compensation

The Conservationist is a full-time position that offers a competitive salary and benefits package. The position ideally will be based at Highstead in Redding, CT, but will require periodic travel around New England and eastern New York. Location may be negotiable for the ideal self-starter.

Additional Information

Further information is available about Highstead (www.highstead.net), the Wildlands and Woodlands initiative (www.wildlandsandwoodlands.org), Conservation Finance Network (ConservationFinanceNetwork.org), and many collaborating activities centered at the Harvard Forest (<http://harvardforest.fas.harvard.edu>) including the Program on Conservation Innovation and the Science and Policy Integration Project.

To Apply

Send a curriculum vitae with a description of skills and work experiences in conservation-related work and a statement of interest with the subject line "Conservationist Search" to Jody Cologgi at Highstead jcologgi@highstead.net. We will begin reviewing candidates on November 1, 2018.