

Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, Inc.
Term Land Steward

Title: Term Land Steward

Reports to: Stewardship Director

Office Location: Office space not specifically provided after training. Remote services.

Fieldwork Location: Georgia and/or Alabama

Position Type: Term- September 1, 2016- December 31, 2016

Compensation: \$15 / Hour 40 Hour Work Week

About the Organization:

The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, Inc. serves to protect land and water for present and future generations through conservation easement and ownership of land. This provides a wide variety of benefits to society, including wildlife, native species and natural communities, watershed function, forestry and agriculture, historic and cultural values and recreational opportunities.

Established in 1994, the Land Trust is an accredited private 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization, consisting of professional staff, overseen by a board of directors. The Land Trust secured its first conservation easement in 1996 and currently protects 268,000 acres within the southeast (mainly in Georgia and Alabama) through 800 conservation easements and a number of owned properties.

General Description:

The Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, Inc. is seeking qualified applicants for term labor opportunities. Term Land Stewards are temporary employees, hired to assist the Land Trust with monitoring of protected lands through aerial reconnaissance and field inspection, which requires significant travel and frequent overnight stay. Monitoring requires individuals to have field orientation, manage diverse terrain, and work independently in remote areas. Additionally, these individuals will create Baseline Documentation Reports for new conservation easement projects. Many of these projects require travel, often to southwest Georgia. Term Land Stewards report to the Stewardship Director and are responsible for the following tasks: gathering project materials, conducting environmental field assessments, documenting conservation values and current conservation easement conditions through photographs, maps, and written reports. Additional duties include competing and submitting annual monitoring assignments as scheduled, communication with landowners for obtaining permission to access properties, conducting and documenting site visits, maintaining and submitting reports, invoices, and tracking for mileage, work hours, expenses, and property modifications. Additionally, these Land Stewards will be trained to handle Reserved Right Requests and Land Transfers. During this term, 40% of the Land Steward's time will be devoted to site monitoring, and 60% drafting baseline documentation reports. Applicants should be committed to working on a diverse array of conservation properties with the ability to effectively communicate with landowners and staff.

Training will take place in Piedmont, Alabama. Permanent Stewardship positions may become available in specific regions of Georgia and Alabama in January 2017, but are not available at this time.

Primary Responsibilities:

The Term Land Steward monitors the Land Trust's conservation easements and protected lands through aerial and field inspection. They are responsible for documenting ongoing stewardship activities, documenting new properties, communicating with landowners and other related contacts, and maintaining detailed records. The Land Steward reports to the Stewardship Director in the Piedmont office and works closely with other stewardship and administrative personnel.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Support the Protection Program by creating baseline documentation reports, preparing maps, and field inventories.

- Monitor protected land through field and aerial monitoring.
- Draft property condition reports, land management plans, reserved rights approvals, property transfers and field operations.
- Organize and implement plans for removing trash and debris, sustainable erosion, habitat rehabilitation, and boundary marking and fencing.
- Maintain dialogue with landowners and conservation easement donors regarding site monitoring, land ownership changes, reserved rights requests and general relationship maintenance.
- Organized and proficient record keeping of monitoring and stewardship documents for permanent filing.

General Requirements:

- Bachelor of Science Degree (biology, ecology, forestry, environmental science or related field).
- 2 Years related experience in land protection, ecological land management or equivalent combination of experience and education. (This may be negotiable with Master's Degree)
- Knowledge of and experience with ArcGIS Desktop (10.0 version or higher).
- Field skills for navigating, surveying and mapping landscapes and features, including use of GPS and handheld devices.
- Competency of standard computer software including MS Word and Excel
- Ability to conduct independent research online for obtaining tax parcels.
- Ability to read title and warranty deed land descriptions.
- Understanding conservation practices and natural resource preservation.
- Understanding Southeast biodiversity and land management practices; including, flora and fauna, timber and agricultural practices, and wetland and water resources.
- Physical ability to hike, perform labor intensive activities, and fly in small aircraft.
- Practical problem-solving and organizational skills with attention to detail for record keeping.
- Ability to communicate effectively with diverse audiences, including landowners, partners, and donors
- Ability to travel overnight and/or for consecutive days
- Must have the ability to work independently (post training), manage time and multiple tasks efficiently.

To apply, submit applications to Amy Gaddy, Interim Stewardship Director, Georgia-Alabama Land Trust, Inc., 226 Old Ladiga Road, Piedmont, AL 36272 or email to: agaddy@galandtrust.org. Applications should include a cover letter, resume, and references. Additionally, it is preferred that example maps are included with the resume, as mapping will be included in most aspects of this position.