Position Summary (General Description):

The Wilderness Society seeks a GIS Analyst to join our Center for Landscape Analysis. This is an exceptional opportunity for a GIS professional to apply his or her spatial analysis and scientific expertise to real world land conservation and management challenges and work in the nexus between science and public policy. We seek a GIS professional who can apply their GIS and natural sciences skills to perform GIS analyses, program spatial models, and develop cartographic products to further our public land management and conservation projects.

The primary role of this position is to perform GIS landscape analysis work that will in turn support land management planning and conservation in the California region. This position will join the team of six scientists making up the Center for Landscape Analysis (CLA) - a subset of the Research Department. Much of the work of the position will involve close collaboration with interdisciplinary project teams, including ecologists, economists, policy experts, regional conservation specialists, and communicators.

The GIS work will involve the collection and preparation of GIS datasets, performing and programming GIS analyses, developing cartographic products, writing reports and other products stemming from the spatial analyses, presenting the products to a variety of audiences, and participating in an online science collaborative. The GIS models programmed will be part of a broad suite of spatial decision support systems (SDSS) that CLA and partners are developing. (SDSS is defined on Wikipedia here.) The objectives for these projects include: optimizing road decommissioning on lands managed by federal agencies; locating and monitoring collaborative forest restoration projects and renewable energy facilities; assisting conservation planning in light of climate change; and better transportation management. Further, the analyst will help develop analyses and products to assess and illustrate threats to public lands and improved management solutions that address those threats.

Primary Duties and Responsibilities:

- Collect, edit, manage, and organize GIS datasets for the California regional program and other programs as needed.
- Assist the Landscape Ecologist to design new GIS projects that serve the goals of the conservation program, working closely with TWS project teams and partner organizations.
- Perform, interpret, and present spatial analyses for land management and conservation using ArcGIS and related software.
- Program spatial models and provide documentation and support.
- Create maps for posters, reports, presentations and other internal and external communication needs.
- Assist in developing an interactive website that will allow scientists within and outside the organization to collaborate better.
- Assist staff in the development of publications and other written communications (e.g., letters, fact sheets, and scientific journal articles).
- Communicate results orally to program team and external groups, including scientists, land managers, elected officials, and other audiences.
- Assist with routine system administration tasks (e.g. system backups, software updates)

Qualifications:

- Master’s (preferred) or Bachelor’s degree in ecology, environmental science, geography, or a related field. Specific experience in forestry, wildlife biology, planning, or land management and policy is desirable.
- A minimum of 2 years of experience in research or applied science GIS projects, including map generation, using ArcGIS software.
- Passion for wildlands and their conservation
- Programming knowledge and experience is preferred, with Python being the most preferred language, and experience programming with Modelbuilder being a close second.
• Demonstration of strong organizational and data management skills.
• Experience communicating technical information for technical and non-technical audiences.
• Ability to stay on schedule and meet deadlines.
• The ability to work both independently and interdependently, in a multi-disciplinary environment.
• Experience writing scientific papers or reports is preferred.
• A willingness to travel.
• Additional desirable qualifications include: experience interacting with the U.S. Forest Service and/or Bureau of Land Management, familiarity with the non-profit conservation community, knowledge of California landscapes and experience participating in and/or developing online collaborative technologies.

The mission of The Wilderness Society is to protect wilderness and inspire Americans to care for our wild places. Building and applying scientific understanding of those places and the values they provide to human communities has long been a hallmark of the organization, and that work is led by The Wilderness Society’s Research Department. It consists of experts in economics, ecology, law and landscape analysis, including 14 Ph.D.-level scientists. This team develops and deploys a base of knowledge needed to answer pressing questions about wildland stewardship issues such as resource exploration and development, public lands restoration and management, climate change, and recreation. This information is key to understanding often complicated environmental issues and, ultimately, to making sound choices toward achieving lasting protection for the resources and places that sustain us and our ways of life.

We offer a very competitive salary and benefits package, including health, dental, vision, life and disability insurance, sick and vacation leave, and a generous retirement plan. At TWS, we advocate for and protect the rich variety of life, values and experiences that wild places provide; as an organization we are equally committed to honoring diversity in our staff and creating an inclusive work environment.

The job description was posted as of May 16, 2011. Application review will begin late May, and applications will be accepted until the position is filled.

To apply please send a single email with the following two to five attachments to mailto: research_jobs@tws.org with the subject line "Associate GIS Analyst": a cover letter explaining your qualifications for and interest in this position; resume or curriculum vitae; the name, address, and phone number for three references (which can be included in the resume/c.v.); and a writing sample (optional) and/or sample of work (optional).

Best,

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The Wilderness Society
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