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Wildlife Program Manager

San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA) is looking for a passionate, experienced, and motivated Wildlife Program Manager to lead campaigns to protect and enhance wildlife and wildlands habitat in the Southern Rocky Mountains. The position is full-time and located in our Durango, CO office.

The San Juan Mountains provide much of the best wildland habitat for the iconic species of the Southern Rockies. Past wildlife recovery efforts have succeeded here because of the large tracts of protected wilderness and undeveloped roadless lands. However, a number of these species face continuing threats, along with timely opportunities to advance protections.

The iconic wildlife species in our region include lynx, bighorn sheep, and potentially reintroduced wolf. These and other species are variously threatened by resort developments, domestic sheep grazing, oil and gas extraction, and habitat fragmentation, among other activities. The Wildlife Program Manager will bring current wildlife science to assist in grassroots advocacy, communications, technical comments, and policy development. Wildlife campaigns will initially focus on advocating for bighorn sheep recovery in relation to domestic livestock allotments, balancing recreation developments with wildlife habitat needs, identifying and protecting important migration corridors, engaging in the development and implementation of a wolf reintroduction plan and defending lynx habitat from destructive projects.

About San Juan Citizens Alliance

San Juan Citizens Alliance (SJCA) was formed in 1986 and advocates for clean air, pure water, and healthy lands – the foundations of resilient communities, ecosystems and economies in the San Juan Basin. Over its 30-year history, SJCA has successfully advocated for protection of communities from the impacts of energy extraction and production, defeated proposed power plants, safeguarded undeveloped valleys, and secured wildlands protections, among many other conservation victories. Our strength is premised on outreach to and engagement of local residents and communities, providing them the tools to effectively engage with decision-makers to implement policies that advance conservation. SJCA is headquartered in Durango, Colorado with a satellite office in Farmington, New Mexico.

SJCA provides a lively and supportive work environment. Our staff of 8 spans a range of experience, from outdoor experiential education to technical environmental consulting. We have program staff with decades of policy and grassroots advocacy experience, along with recent college graduates tackling leading-edge policy reforms in climate change, energy

generation, and river restoration. Program staff are supported by enthusiastic and competent communications and financial managers.

Job Responsibilities

Wildlife Science

Understands and implements wildlife science into advocacy:

- Familiarity with relevant current science and research relating to habitat needs, life cycles, and conservation policy on targeted wildlife species to inform SJCA's strategy and decision-making in advocacy campaigns.
- Translate wildlife science into a tool for advocacy in SJCA's communication, messaging, alerts, social media and other outreach tools.

Project Evaluation and Analysis

Supports SJCA's positions and responses to projects and plans on federal public lands and state wildlife management decisions as they relate to wildland habitat and species. Duties include:

- Review NEPA and planning documents generated by federal land managers, and provide synopsis of those for action alerts and media outreach as they relate to SJCA's emphasis wildlife species.
- Generate technical review and comment to federal land managers incorporating relevant wildlife science.
- Participate in Colorado Parks and Wildlife species management planning and implementation. Provide technical input to the Parks and Wildlife Commission.
- Coordinate responses with SJCA members and coalition partners.
- Provide assistance in relevant litigation, including research, standing declarations, etc.

Organizing

Coordinates and activates SJCA members and the general public on relevant wildlife management topics:

- Identify interested SJCA members and other community members.
- Design and implement field trips, actions or other hands-on activities that engage SJCA members.
- Work to influence BLM, Forest Service, stakeholder and opinion leaders.
- Identify elected officials and opinion leaders at local, state, and federal levels to recruit as wildlife proponents.
- Identify new organizing opportunities as relevant issues present themselves, and organize citizens by geography, issue, or other identified interest.
- Organize and participate in public presentations.
- Network with other individuals and organizations.
- Participate in community meetings and represent SJCA in stakeholder or collaborative projects.
- Coordinate with SJCA's wildlands program staff, Animas Riverkeeper staff, and climate/energy program staff.

Media

Create traditional and social media coverage, including:

- Create content for action alerts, blog posts, press releases and other outreach materials generated by SJCA's Communications Manager.
- Create public education materials that describe roles and opportunities for federal elected officials to promote wildlife protection.
- Schedule media tours and other avenues to educate and inform reporters.
- Recruit spokespeople to communicate our message to the public through media outlets.
- Draft press releases and respond to media inquiries.

Qualifications

We are seeking an experienced, motivated and passionate advocate to lead campaigns on wildlife and wildland habitat in the Southern Rocky Mountains. The ideal candidate possesses:

- 3+ years experience in wildlife science, wildlife conservation or wildlife advocacy.
- Knowledge of conservation needs of key wildlife species in Southern Rockies.
- Familiarity with state and federal agencies with a role in wildlife or habitat management.
- Strategic thinker able to conceive overarching wildlife campaign goals and identify actions necessary to achieve those goals.
- Creativity and critical thinking when brainstorming and problem-solving.
- Demonstrated ability to be a "quick study" with experience distilling key elements of technical topics for a general audience.
- Comfortable discussing wildlife conservation issues with the media, business owners, local elected officials, partner organizations, and community members.
- Ability to work independently and be a self-starter.
- Natural affinity for engaging with diverse stakeholders and partners.
- Excellent writing and editing skills.
- Experience utilizing or creating information generated from GIS analysis.
- Strong public speaking abilities.
- The ability to travel within the region for work, including some evenings and weekends..

Good-To-Have

- Familiarity with the San Juans specifically or Southern Rockies more generally.
- Experience with online advocacy tools.

Compensation

This is a full-time, salaried position with generous vacation benefits that include 25 days of paid time off in the first year, health-care coverage, and employer-matched retirement plan after the first year of employment. Professional training opportunities are provided. Salary is commensurate with other regional non-profits.

To Apply

Send a cover letter and resume with the subject line, "Wildlife Program Manager" to info@sanjuancitizens.org. Position open until filled.