

Georgia Sentinel Landscapes Partnership
Coordinator Position – Application Period Closes September 30, 2018

The leadership of the Georgia Sentinel Landscapes Partnership seeks a highly motivated and qualified individual to become the Coordinator for this new and important project. The Coordinator will have the opportunity to work with a broad array of partners to advance diverse natural resource conservation goals within the project's geographic boundaries. This individual will also collaborate with Coordinators from the other Sentinel Landscapes (currently six) across the country. This is an exceptional opportunity to help advance an extraordinary natural resources conservation partnership and "move the needle" for projects that benefit Georgia's economy, culture, and natural environment in a Sentinel Landscape that includes nine military installations.

The Coordinator is expected to be a "force multiplier" who will work with Sentinel Landscape partners to help them achieve project goals. The Coordinator's role may be summarized as three main tasks:

- Making and communicating the Department of Defense (DOD) connection. The Coordinator's primary role will be to represent DOD natural resource concerns to the audiences most critical to advancing the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership goals.
- Establish clear, measurable goals that define success for the Sentinel Landscape Partnership.
- Secure the funding or other support required to help implement those goals, including funding to supplement and/or extend the Coordinator position;

This Coordinator position is new. Broad goals have been established for the Partnership but need refining (Draft strategic plan attached). The Coordinator will therefore be responsible for shaping the partnership in collaboration with the partners. This person will work largely independently but will have access to the people and resources of some of the leading public and private natural resource institutions in Georgia. The Coordinator will essentially function as the CEO of the Georgia Sentinel Landscape Partnership and will be expected to conduct all relevant duties necessary to make the program a success. This individual should have superior people skills and be committed to helping the partners achieve the on-the-ground projects necessary for the program to prosper. It is not anticipated that the Coordinator will be engaged in field work directly.

To achieve Partnership goals the Coordinator will tap into partner resources for assistance and supplement their capacity or other needs as required. For example, the Coordinator might work with a non-profit partner that has superior public relations staff to jointly craft communications materials and messages, and then independently seek funding from a private foundation to cover the cost of producing and distributing these materials. Similarly, the Coordinator will work with partners to refine conservation objectives in the areas described below and then may seek funding for the partners to implement those actions. It is not anticipated that the Georgia Sentinel Landscape Partnership will be incorporated. Thus the Coordinator will work with partners for assistance administering grants.

The Coordinator will report to the Chairperson of the Georgia Sentinel Landscape Executive Committee representing the broader partnership.

A full-time position is desired but funding restrictions may necessitate a part-time approach at first. The Coordinator will likely serve as a contractor and be responsible for their own health care, taxes, and other expenses. Alternatively, the coordinator may be employed by another entity that shares expenses.

Background: Sentinel Landscapes Program

The www.sentinellandscapes.org page describes Sentinel Landscapes as working or natural lands important to the Nation’s defense mission – places where conserving the working and rural character of key landscapes strengthens the economies of farms, ranches, and forests; conserves habitat and natural resources; and protects vital test and training missions conducted on those military installations that anchor such landscapes.

The U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Defense (DOD), and the Interior established the Sentinel Landscapes Partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding in 2013. The Partnership is a nationwide Federal, state, local and private collaboration dedicated to promoting natural resource sustainability and the preservation of agricultural and conservation land uses in areas surrounding military installations. Agencies from the three Departments coordinate the Partnership at the national level through the Sentinel Landscapes Federal Coordination Committee.

The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership seeks to recognize and incentivize landowners to continue maintaining these landscapes in ways that contribute to the nation’s defense. Where shared interests can be identified within a Landscape, the Partnership coordinates mutually beneficial programs and strategies to preserve, enhance or protect habitat and working lands near military installations in order to reduce, prevent or eliminate restrictions due to incompatible development that inhibit military testing and training.

Background: Georgia Sentinel Landscape Partnership

The [Georgia Sentinel Landscape](#) was designated on December 19, 2017 and was the first Sentinel Landscape chosen through a national, competitive process.

The [fact sheet](#) from this announcement notes that the Georgia Sentinel Landscape Partnership builds on a legacy of successful, collaborative land protection in the state, and seeks to leverage common interests to further collective goals. Landscape partners from the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the military services, the State of Georgia, and a number of private conservation organizations have identified approximately 1.3 million acres within the Landscape’s boundary as critical to important natural resources, working economies, and military readiness.

Key goals established by the Georgia Sentinel Landscape Partnership include:

- 1) Advancing the Georgia Gopher Tortoise Initiative;
- 2) Promoting land conservation and compatible use in the vicinity of DOD installations;
- 3) Conserving and better managing natural land in the Savannah River Basin for water quality; and
- 4) Protecting undeveloped coastal sites for economic, cultural, and environmental purposes;

Georgia Sentinel Landscape Partnership Coordinator—Essential Duties and Responsibilities

The Coordinator will be expected to work closely with partners to:

- Communicate DOD natural resource concerns to audiences most critical to the Georgia Sentinel Landscape Partnership;
- Define success for the Georgia Sentinel Landscape and refine a blueprint or strategic plan that will lead to this goal;
- Refine the four broad goals above to identify priority, measureable actions and outcomes that can be accomplished in both the short- and long-term;
- Coordinate with partners, and work independently as necessary, to secure public and/or private funding for priority projects;
- Secure public and/or private funding to supplement and sustain the Coordinator position;
- Establish and create a system for tracking project metrics to be used for reporting purposes;
- Create a communications plan targeting key audiences;
- Collaborate with coordinators and staff from other Sentinel Landscapes to enhance learnings across partnerships;
- Serve as the primary point of contact for the Georgia Sentinel Landscape for the Sentinel Landscape Federal Coordinating Committee;
- Take responsibility for all reporting to the Federal Coordinating Committee and donors;
- Host in-person meetings of the Georgia Sentinel Landscape Partnership on an annual basis or as needed; provide brief, electronic updates to this group on a regular basis, and interact with the Executive Committee frequently.

Minimal Qualifications

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent experience in natural resource conservation and partnership building and management;
- Proven capacity to coordinate diverse interests to achieve large-scale goals;
- Proven fundraising experience with public agencies, private foundations, and/or corporations;
- Broad understanding of political, cultural, economic, and environmental issues within the Georgia Sentinel Landscape boundary and within the state itself;
- Superior communications skills, both verbally and written.

Desired Qualifications

- Career experience with DOD, preferably in Georgia or the southeast;
- Strong understanding of the relationship between the DOD testing and training mission and natural resource challenges;
- Experience in working with the Georgia Legislature;
- GIS experience.

Compensation

Commensurate with experience. The Executive Committee will secure \$150,000 to help fund this position; these funds are one-half federal (DOD) and one-half non-federal (U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities). The funds can be deployed over two or three years. The Coordinator will work with the Executive Committee and partners to leverage these funds to meet annual and long-term

compensation goals. Ideally, the Coordinator position would remain in place until all Sentinel Landscape goals have been achieved. The Coordinator will be largely responsible for securing the funds necessary to sustain the position.

Location

The Coordinator may work from home or be housed with a partner, depending on needs and opportunities.

Questions and Applying

The deadline for receiving application materials is September 30, 2018.

Interested applicants should send a cover letter and resume to Peter Stangel, U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities; peter@usendowment.org. Send questions to this same email or contact Peter at 404-915-2763. The Endowment will coordinate the application review process on behalf of the Georgia Sentinel Landscape Executive Committee.

The cover letter should specifically address how the applicant's skills and experience suit them to the Coordinator's position as described above.