



Position Title: **Executive Director**
Southern Group of State Foresters

Location: Negotiable location within the 13 SGSF States

Salary: Salary commensurate with experience

Closing Date: Applicants should submit application by June 22, 2026, for full consideration.

Job Description: The Executive Director provides leadership necessary to ensure that the goals and objectives of the SGSF are successfully met on behalf of the 15-member Southern Group of State Foresters (SGSF) including the following southern states: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

Responsibilities include: 1) provides team leadership necessary to ensure SGSF contractors fully collaborate and coordinate their activities; 2) acts as a point of contact and coordination for the officers of SGSF and the entire membership regarding group decisions; 3) speaks on behalf of SGSF regarding actions, issues and other matters pertaining to SGSF business; 4) manages regional issues on behalf of SGSF; 5) coordinates the design and implementation of long-term strategies to promote, build awareness and generate support for SGSF priorities including but not limited to State, Private and Tribal Forestry programs; 6) serves as the liaison for SGSF with the US Forest Service, agencies, and other partners; 7) represents SGSF at meetings and conferences; 8) ensures that actions taken by SGSF are documented and followed through in an appropriate manner; 9) assists with the planning of all SGSF meetings; 10) works closely with the SGSF COO and Texas A&M Forest Service to monitor SGSF financial management and grants and 11) assists with administrative and other duties as directed by the chair of SGSF.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities Required

Basic knowledge of and proven ability to network with state and federal forestry agencies, other natural resource agencies (e.g., Fish & Wildlife, EPA, Air Quality, NOAA, USGS), NGOs engaged in conservation, foundations, outdoor industry associations and other groups is required. Proven organizational, management and communication skills are critical to the successful fulfillment of the job duties.

Qualifications:

Required:

- Minimum of 10 years professional experience, Five years experience in a leadership or team leading role
- Bachelor's degree in forestry, natural resources, communications, business, or a related field.
- Experience working in forestry or a related natural resources field.
- Excellent writing, networking, financial management, verbal communications, and presentation skills.
- Demonstrated ability to meet multiple deadlines and prioritize projects.

- Team management experience.
- Ability to travel

Preferred:

- Master's degree in a relevant field.
- Certified Association Executive designation.
- Policy, legislative, and communications experience.
- Experience working with state and/or federal natural resource agencies.

Note: This is a contract position and not subject to benefits such as 401K or medical insurance.

Submit Resume and cover letter to: Wib Owen, Chief Operating Officer, Southern Group of State Foresters via. mail or email. 5013 Darcy Woods Lane, Fuquay Varina, NC 27526 or wib.owen@southernforests.org

***Nondiscrimination Status:** Southern Group of State Foresters is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer and complies with all federal and state laws, regulations, and executive orders regarding affirmative action requirements including compliance with Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Form I-9 (Employment Eligibility Verification). SGSF conducts background checks on all final candidates.*