

## Job Description

### Bald Head Island Conservancy Director of Conservation

#### **Summary:**

The Bald Head Island Conservancy seeks a full time Director of Conservation. The position will hold a research faculty position at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, Environmental Studies with full benefits. Bald Head Island is a barrier island community that strives to live sustainably within its dynamic environment. The island complex is located within 10,000 acres of preserved salt marsh and barrier island habitats and hosts a globally imperiled old-growth maritime forest. The position requires a PhD in marine, earth, environmental, ecological sciences or a policy background with a strong research experience. This 1-year appointment developed as a public-private partnership with the Village of BHI and The University of North Carolina Wilmington has the potential for renewal up to 3 years. The responsibilities include: 1) Providing scientific expertise for environmental decision making; 2) Developing a management plan for salt-marsh creeks; 3) Developing recommendations for access to drinking water and disposal of wastewater in coordination with the BHI public, gov't, and business communities; 4) Initiate research to develop a near-shore sediment transfer model; 5) Work with the community of BHI to develop a climate change action plan. Additional responsibilities include facilitating researchers on BHI and seeking external funding to develop a research program on BHI. Please send cover letter, C.V., and 3 letters of recommendation to Dr. Suzanne E. Dorsey, Executive Director. The BHI Conservancy seeks qualified applicants and especially welcomes applications from underrepresented groups in science. Application deadline is May 10 2008.

#### **Qualifications:**

- PhD in Biological, Botanical, Ecological, Earth, Marine or Policy with strong research component
- Successful experience developing relationships with governments, federal and state agencies, private businesses, and non-profits
- Understanding biogeophysical dynamics in and around barrier islands.
- Understanding ecology of barrier island terrestrial and marine communities.
- Experience with government relations and/or public policy development and implementation
- Experience in developing environmental management plans
- Experience conducting research and writing research proposals
- Strong communications skills, including excellent writing ability, experience presenting complex scientific/technical concepts in an understandable manner to a lay audience and negotiation skills

#### **Required knowledge and skills:**

- Knowledge of current trends in coastal conservation: geophysical coastal dynamic, water resource management, land management and restoration, and climate change.
- Well-developed understanding of the ecological, social, economic and political dimensions of current and emerging issues affecting conservation
- Knowledge of barrier island ecosystems
- Successful experience in developing, directing and managing multiple projects and implementing strategic program goals
- Knowledge of politics and society with respect of environmental affairs
- Knowledge and understanding of government agencies management protocols
- Work requires physical exertion and strain and exposure to all seasonal conditions found on a barrier island

**Duties:**

**I. ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP:**

- a. Attend BHI Village staff meetings on environmental issues and present reports at Village Council meetings. Review available published scientific information and provide objective analysis of reports to stakeholders.

**II. SEDIMENT TRANSPORT MODEL**

- a. Work towards a comprehensive study of sediment transport along the near-shore zone of the lower Cape Fear communities. Provide criteria for design of future dredging/renourishment activities. During FY 2008-09:
  - i. Compile database of available information from academic and government sources
  - ii. Gain support of: Oak Island, Southport, Brunswick County, and Fort-Fisher State Park, CAMA, and other state and Federal agencies.
  - iii. Develop partnerships with academic, government researchers, and local governments to write a proposal for funding of the study.

**III. WATER QUALITY/QUANTITY**

- a. Work with local government, state agencies, and other stakeholders to establish a monitoring system to ensure that aquifer water is maintained at both the highest quality and quantity.
- b. Work with stakeholders to examine wastewater management on BHI.

**IV. BALD HEAD AND CAPE CREEKS MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

- a. Work with the community, BHI Village and appropriate state agencies to design a creek management strategy to incorporate community access and long-term sustainability of the creeks.

**V. CLIMATE CHANGE**

- a. Establish benchmarks and objective projections of the anticipated affects of climate change on BHI in the next 20 years. From these projections specific strategies will be provided to minimize the impact on Village and

Community assets. These benchmarks will be measured and policy implications will be presented at the Village Council's annual retreat.

- i. Review the scientific literature and provide the Village information for interactions with the Coastal Resource Commission and other state and federal agencies.

VI. Writing and submitting externally funded research proposals to develop an active research benefiting BHI and barrier islands.

VII. Facilitating and overseeing research activities of visiting scientists at the BHI-Conservancy.

VIII. Working in a non-profit organization requires flexibility and willingness to contribute in a variety of activities including fundraising, environmental education, facilities management, and many others.