



TITLE: Landowner Advocacy Director (Government Affairs)
TYPE: Full-time, exempt
LOCATION: Helena, MT
REPORTS TO: Managing Director
SALARY: \$75,000-85,000/year DOE
BENEFITS: Health insurance, employer retirement contribution (12%), 401(k), flexible paid time off, and 12 paid Holiday observances.
ANTICIPATED START: Nov 15, 2024
APPLY BY: October 1, 2024

Position Summary

The Montana Land Reliance (MLR) seeks an experienced, full-time Landowner Advocacy Director to develop, direct, and implement key strategies to advocate for agricultural land conservation. Key areas of responsibility include ag constituency outreach, partner collaboration, policy maker (county, state, federal, elected and agency) outreach and advocacy, and working directly with communication staff to develop communications strategies around MLR's policy work. **This position is required to work regularly at the Capitol during Montana's bi-annual legislative session.**

About MLR

MLR is an accredited, nonprofit land trust that partners with private landowners to permanently protect Montana's agricultural lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space. Since 1978, MLR has helped more than 1,000 families conserve over 1.3 million acres of working lands, wildlife habitat and open space across the state. MLR runs like a business and is one of the most focused and efficient land trusts in the country. The lasting benefits of MLR's work are the perpetuation of a lifestyle and an economy that relies on responsibly managed private land and increasingly valuable Montana open spaces that will continue to nourish the spirit of future generations. MLR intends to double its conserved acreage by 2040 through a planned approach that recognizes MLR's values, respects MLR's history, and builds on the solid foundation laid by MLR's founders to keep the organization and its unique brand of conservation at the forefront of private land conservation in Montana and nationwide. To learn more, visit www.mtlandreliance.org.

Primary Responsibilities

- Develop and implement year-round advocacy strategies around MLR's ag land conservation work and mission.
- Monitor state, local, and federal government activities, assess actions, and effectively communicate response.
- Direct and design strategies for legislative sessions to ensure support for MLR's mission during the legislative process.
- Work as MLR's lobbyist, as needed during Montana's legislative session.

- Supervise communication of MLR official positions regarding federal and state agencies and all levels of government policy
- Coordinate with and update staff and Board on MLR activities regarding advocacy work.
- Provide advice, counsel, and expertise in all matters related to government relations.
- Prepare general correspondence around MLR's advocacy work.
- Further MLR's mission and policy goals through public testimony.
- Collaborate with government affairs staff from affiliate partners and others in the ag and conservation arena.
- Develop new and maintain and nurture existing joint venture conservation with private groups and public agencies.
- Work with the public regarding the importance of private land conservation and stewardship.
- Develop outreach programs for targeted areas.

Preferred Qualifications

- Passion for and commitment to MLR's mission.
- Experience in government affairs and/or direct lobbying.
- Bachelor's degree preferred.
- Strong computer skills, including Microsoft Office suite.
- Ability to prioritize and manage a high volume of projects and tasks in a fast-paced environment.
- Hard working with superb attention to detail and nuance.
- Demonstrated ability to think strategically, develop and manage complex projects and adopt new approaches in response to changing circumstances.
- Experience and proven ability to encourage and nurture collaboration among diverse partners, with an ability to create and thrive in a team environment and work in partnership with a variety of people and organizations.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills, with proven ability to convey information simply and clearly to diverse audiences.
- Ability to work independently
- Ability and willingness to travel both in state and out of state.
- Valid driver's license.

How to Apply

Email a cover letter and resume in PDF format to Kendall Van Dyk kendall@mtlandreliance.org with the subject heading "Landowner Advocacy Director: Your Last Name]."

The application deadline is October 1, 2024. **MLR is an equal opportunity employer.**